



# COMMON GROUND

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## COMMUNITY WORKS PROGRAM PROVIDING EMPLOYABLE SKILLS FOR RE-ENTRY



DEPARTMENT TO HOST  
"A CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE"

SCSD WELCOMES  
NEW ACADEMY CLASS



## Sheriff's Statement

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Community Works Program (CWP) is an important extension of our overall vocational education programming. Inmates in CWP are brought into the community by our officers to apply many of the skills that they've acquired through our Common Ground Institute's (CGI) vocational education training at public sites throughout Suffolk County. Under the supervision of our specially trained officers, CWP members utilize their training in carpentry, custodial maintenance, painting and landscaping, both as a means of community restitution and as a practical application of the knowledge that they've gained through our programming. It is SCSD's mission to provide the kinds of skills and training to those in our care and custody that will assist them as they transition back into their communities with the ability to more ably provide for themselves and their families, which helps to contribute to the overall health, safety and vibrancy of our neighborhoods.

**-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

## Department Celebrates National Night Out Across Suffolk County



**S**uffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined with other representatives of local law enforcement and community organizations to help celebrate National Night Out, 2016. An annual county and country-wide event, National Night Out (NNO) is a program that cultivates and strengthens partnerships among the citizens, law enforcement, city and state agencies and community-based organizations.

NNO also celebrates the important contributions of neighborhood watch groups, and each year, organizers work to increase participation in neighborhood watch programs among local residents.



Crisscrossing the neighborhoods of Suffolk County, Sheriff Tompkins and members of the Department visited Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roxbury, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Revere, Chelsea, Chinatown, Brighton, Hyde Park, the South End, and the North End speaking about the importance of community participation and collaboration with law enforcement for safe neighborhoods.



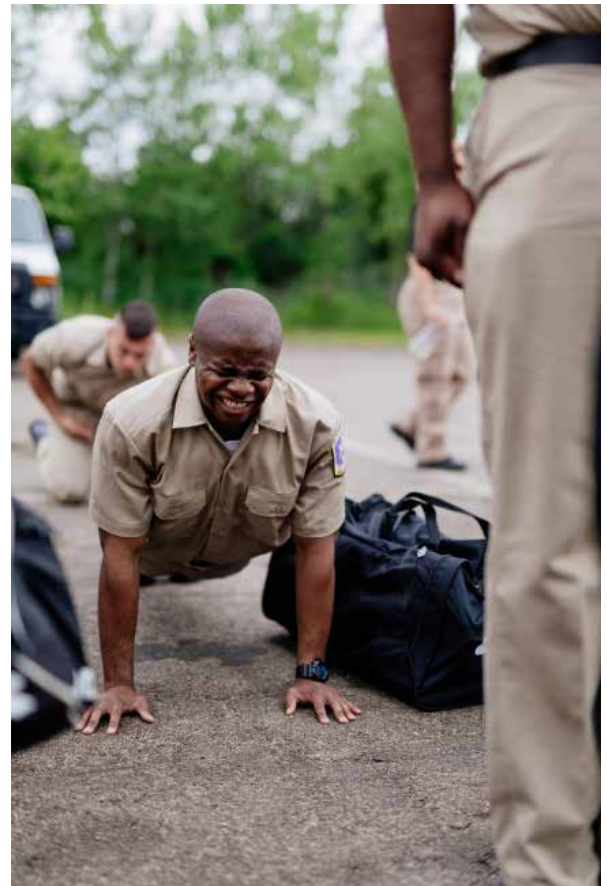
## SCSD Welcomes New Academy Class 16-02

This month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed recruits for day one of Correction Officer Training for Academy Class 16-02.

In their journey to become members of the SCSD custody staff, officer candidates will endure a rigorous 13-week training that will test them physically and mentally, as they complete instruction in subjects that include ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, the use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband

control, courtroom testimony, C.O.R.I. and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, sexual harassment, cross-gender supervision, report writing, evacuation plans, general conduct, CPR, interpersonal communications and more. Cadets also receive physical training and are schooled in multiple defense tactics.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department we wish all of the cadets the best of luck and we look forward to working them at the end of their 13 weeks.



To learn more about our Training Division, please visit <http://www.scsdma.org/facilities/training.shtml>.

To learn more about becoming a Correction Officer with the SCSD, please visit <http://scsdma.applicantstack.com/x/detail/a2cncw2tjkh>.

A portrait of Heather McNeil, a woman with blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark-colored collared shirt. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with other people.

# Heather McNeil

## Employee Profile

**H**eather E. McNeil, an Assistant Deputy Superintendent for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, began her career working for the Department 25 years ago at the Deer Island House of Correction as a correction officer.

When the Suffolk County House of Correction at South Bay opened in 1991, ADS McNeil continued there as a correction officer for approximately 10 years. She then moved to the Nashua Street Jail to work in what is now the External Affairs and Communications Division for four years, where she also taught the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program and helped to launch the Department's Senior ID program. She later moved over to the administrative side to work in Human Resources before returning to External Affairs, and was given oversight of the Community Works Program (CWP).

Following her promotion to Assistant Deputy Superintendent, ADS McNeil has continued to oversee CWP, in addition to several other programs and initiatives. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's CWP sends properly classified inmates nearing the completion of their sentences into communities, under the constant watch of an armed Sheriff's deputy, to provide labor for many city, state and town projects. Working tirelessly with the city, state, and non-profit agencies to establish CWP work sites, ADS McNeil meets regularly with local officials and associations to talk about public safety issues and about what the Department is doing to work in conjunction with neighboring organizations like the nearby methadone clinics and homeless shelter.

ADS McNeil feels extremely fortunate to work at a job where she gets to go out every day and help people in the community, and also help the members of the CWP program to learn employable skills and better their stations in life as they are given the opportunity to go out and display what they've learned to their communities.

McNeil truly enjoys helping people. It is, she explains, a very rewarding experience to see the progress that is made by the people in the program.

"I don't think people realize how much work goes into the program and how much work the CWP officers do on a daily basis," said ADS McNeil. "I work with people all over Suffolk County from Revere, to Chelsea to Winthrop and Boston and we assist them with everything from snow shoveling, debris removal and cleanup to painting and basic carpentry."

# Community Works Program



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, through the Community Works Program (CWP), sends properly classified inmates nearing the completion of their sentences into communities, under the constant watch of an armed Sheriff's deputy, to provide labor for many city, state and town projects. Cleaning vacant lots, beautifying roadway intersections, painting street lamps, boarding and securing abandoned homes and shoveling senior citizen housing walkways are just some of many jobs participants of the CWP complete.

Inmates volunteer for CWP and must meet strict classification standards to be selected for the program. Many of the assignments are made through requests to the Department for assistance from municipal governments, non-profits and various divisions from within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In addition, the Community Works Program undertakes projects that may never be completed due to cost restraints or lack of personnel. CWP is also an essential part of vocational and job training services provided to offenders before release from the Suffolk County House of Correction.

“Our mission is to ensure that inmates leave us with increased chances of finding employment, in addition the other necessities, which include housing and healthcare, to help them successfully reenter the community,” said Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins. “The Community Works Program helps inmates to gain experience and skills that they can use to get a job, and it provides them with a chance to give back to the community by providing a valuable public service. It's a win-win for the inmates and the people of Suffolk County.”

“The Deputies who supervise CWP details regularly go above and beyond their normal duties to make the program work,” said Assistant Deputy Superintendent Heather McNeil, who oversees the program. “We respond to requests from local governments and we prepare the crews to go out and get the job done.”

Sergeant Micah Brinson who supervises inmates at their work sites stated that, “The Community Works Program provides an opportunity for those incarcerated seeking rehabilitation to obtain valuable and employable skills that will assist them with successful reintegration into their communities as self-reliant, productive members of society. Overall, the goal of the program is to lessen recidivism.”

# Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins Joins Elected Officials in Opposition of Marijuana Legalization



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Massachusetts Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo, Mayor Marty Walsh, President of Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) John Drew, Boston Children’s Hospital’s Dr. Sharon Levy and many more, in opposition to the ballot initiative to legalize marijuana in Massachusetts.

City officials met to discuss this issue at the ABCD William J. Ostiguy High School – a learning institution for teens in recovery. Before introducing Sheriff Tompkins, Lt. Governor Polito made clear her position on the referendum, stating, “it is targeting our youth and will compromise their safety and wellness here in our Commonwealth.”

Sheriff Tompkins, echoing the sentiment of those gathered at the school, once again affirmed his opposition to the legalization measure.

“I cannot in good faith support a referendum that makes it easier for young people to gain access to a controlled substance,” Sheriff Tompkins said. “I would ask any of you, all of you to go to the South Bay area sometime, around five o’clock or six o’clock in the morning and look at all of the people that are in that neighborhood just waiting to get into one of the centers to get their medication there.”

According to the Massachusetts Department of Health, the opioid epidemic that has raged on the streets of Suffolk County and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts killed 1,531 people in MA last year, with 194 deaths in Suffolk County alone. With such dire statistics, providing access to marijuana, which some experts believe can be a gateway drug to increased use and more powerful drugs like opioids, is not a risk that opponents of the legalization measure are willing to take.

**“I cannot in good faith support a referendum that makes it easier for young people to gain access to a controlled substance.”**

-Sheriff Tompkins





TUESDAY  
AUGUST 23, 2016

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

# A CONVERSATION ABOUT RACE

DOORS OPEN: 5:30PM | PROGRAM: 6:00PM-8:30PM



MODERATED BY  
**STEVEN W. TOMPKINS**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

## PANELISTS

**RT. REVEREND JACK AHERN**  
SAINT MARY PARISH

**ANDREA CABRAL**  
FORMER MASSACHUSETTS  
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

**EVANDRO CARVALHO**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
5TH SUFFOLK DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

**MICHAEL CURRY**  
BOSTON NAACP  
PRESIDENT

**DIDI DELGADO**  
BLACK LIVES MATTER  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

**ADAM FOSS**  
FORMER SUFFOLK COUNTY  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**WILLIAM GROSS**  
CITY OF BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SUPERINTENDENT-IN-CHIEF

**AKILAH JOHNSON**  
BOSTON GLOBE  
REPORTER

**STEVE KOCZELA**  
THE MASS INC POLLING GROUP  
PRESIDENT

**DAN MULHERN**  
CITY OF BOSTON  
PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVE  
DIRECTOR

**TONYA PLATT**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DAN RIVERA**  
MAYOR OF LAWRENCE

**ALBERTO VASALLO, JR.**  
*EL MUNDO*  
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

**ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**MEDIA ARTS BUILDING | 1234 COLUMBUS AVENUE | BOSTON, MA 02120**

For more information  
contact Nadia Lovinsky

617-704-6656

WWW.SCSDMA.ORG

NLOVINSKY@SCSDMA.ORG

200 NASHUA ST, BOSTON, MA 02114

\*THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC\*



**COMMON GROUND**  
*NEWSLETTER*

SANDY ZAMOR CALIXTE - CHIEF  
COLLEEN FONSECA - EDITOR

**SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS**

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PHONE. 617-704-6688

FAX. 617-704-6750

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