



# COMMON GROUND

JANUARY 2017 ISSUE



## THE YEAR 2016 IN REVIEW



# Sheriff's Statement



Like many of us do at this time of year, we at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department take stock of the year that was, remembering some of the improvements and achievements we've made while looking ahead in the New Year at long-term sustainability and ways in which we can become even better.

As you read through this special year-end edition of the Common Ground, you'll see just a small sampling of the many efforts that the Department undertakes to carry out and expand upon our primary mission: providing care, custody and rehabilitative support of those remanded to our facilities by the courts.

You'll also read about some of our newest initiatives in addition to the national and local recognition that we've received for our programming and public outreach efforts, which have all been designed with the purpose of positively changing the lives of those in our care and custody and transforming the communities in and around Suffolk County.

I hope that your holidays were pleasant and restful, and I look forward to a new year in which we continue our efforts to make the Commonwealth a safer, healthier and more vibrant place for all of us.

**– Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

## Officer of the Year

One of the Department's own was celebrated as "Correctional Employee of the Year" at the 19th Annual Ceremony held at the Massachusetts State House.



## The Year That Was

A brief review about some of the past year's achievements of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

## Officer Achievements

Join us in welcoming new members of the Department and congratulating our officers on their various achievements over this past year.

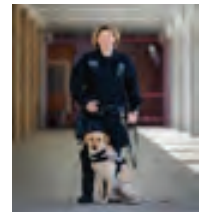
## Stemming the Tide of Substance Abuse



Learn more about one of the Department's newest programs aimed at overcoming opiate and alcohol addiction: the Vivitrol Program.

## New Training for K-9s

Read about the recent SCSD K-9 Division training designed to teach our K-9's to smell and detect the powerful drug Suboxone.



## SCSD Hosts U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch



Read about U.S. Attorney General Lynch's visit with Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins at the SCSD House of Correction for a discussion about re-entry and criminal justice reform.

## Breakfast With the Legislature

At the close of 2016, the Department held a Legislative Breakfast with the purpose of providing an overview of the SCSD's programs, policies and needs for the Year 2017 and beyond.

# SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OFFICER CELEBRATED AS "CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR" AT 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CEREMONY



Presided over by Secretary of Public Safety and Security Daniel Bennett, this ceremony was created to recognize and celebrate the notable and often heroic actions taken by those working in the field of corrections.

Each year, the state's 14 sheriffs and the Massachusetts Department of Correction nominate exemplary employees for these prestigious awards. A selection committee comprised of leaders from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, the Massachusetts Correctional Officer Federated Union and designees from the Massachusetts House of Representatives

and Senate determine which employees will be honored.

Presented with a Letter of Commendation, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Correction Officer John Creamer was honored for his life-saving efforts after identifying and assisting a man in cardiac arrest. While patronizing a CVS Pharmacy store this past fall in Haverhill, Officer Creamer observed an employee who had become unresponsive and in need of both CPR and defibrillation.

Rushing over to administer compressions and employing a defibrillator as emergency services arrived to provide assistance, Officer Creamer's quick thinking and actions likely

saved the life of the young clerk.

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins offered his congratulations to Officer Creamer and to all of the correction officers and employees who were recognized for going above and beyond their prescribed duties following the ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

"Our officers, along with their counterparts across the Commonwealth, perform heroic and life-saving actions as part of their day-to-day duties and responsibilities both inside of our institutions and outside of them," said Sheriff Tompkins. "On numerous occasions, these officers have performed these actions as brave and selfless civilians, often without recognition or celebration – in fact, many of them acting while shunning the spotlight. But, Officer Creamer and the others honored today deserve this recognition that we so proudly bestow upon them. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients."



# SCSD and the Year that Was

For the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, the year 2016 included a couple of first-time events, the beginning of several new programs, and an expansion of the "care" component featured in the Department's mandate of care, custody and control.

With a brisk start to the year, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Department hosted a special visit from United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who toured the House of Correction where she later addressed national media about support from President Barack Obama's Administration of effective reentry programming like the Department's C.R.E.W. (Community Re-Entry for Women) and BRI (Boston Reentry Initiative).

In 2016, the Department continued to be extremely active externally, providing outreach to the people who live, work and learn in Suffolk County. Sheriff Tompkins invited members of the neighborhoods that comprise Boston, Winthrop, Chelsea and Revere to his new Listening Tours series, and the Department also continued with its community-oriented programs, which included: the D.A.S.H. (Defensive Aids in Situations of Help) women's self-defense program; the Choice Program in which specially trained officers visit schools throughout the county to speak about civic responsibility and respecting others, eliminating bullying and violence, the importance of education and preparing for positive futures; the Senior ID and senior safety programs; Ident-A-Youth fingerprinting for children, and others.

Speaking of community outreach and engagement, Sheriff Tompkins and the Department hosted several community forums or "conversations," each of which drew hundreds of attendees with topics and titles covering a wide range, including: "A Conversation About Substance Abuse and Mental Health Care," "A Conversation With the Women of the Boston City Council," "A Conversation About Gun Safety," and "A Conversation About Race."

Adding to a roster of nearly 100 programs designated for inmates and detainees, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department introduced several new initiatives this past year, including classes in Basic Automotive and Small Engine Repair, and the R.I.S.E. (Re-Entry Initiatives to Successful Employment) job readiness program for men. Other more recent programs that were created under Sheriff Tompkins have continued to great success, like the Pathways To Employment program for women; Culinary Arts;



the Urban Farm program; the Golden Scissors tailoring program; the Retail Skills Training program; the Clothing Closet, which provides the formerly incarcerated with appropriate job interview attire; PDAT (Professional Development and Attitudinal Training); the Family Matters program, which helps incarcerated people and their families link to needed social programs and services; the Opioid Peer Prevention program; an addiction recovery program that includes the use of Vivitrol; and many others.

The Department's Correction Officer Training Academy also shepherded two classes of trainees from the academy to graduation and into ranks of officers serving the Department. A total of 53 new officers were sworn in to begin their careers in corrections.

Kicking off what would become an impressive list of individual achievements for the Year 2016, Sheriff



Tompkins was unanimously elected to serve as the President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association by his thirteen fellow sheriffs. Though he officially assumed the mantle at the end of December, 2015, Sheriff Tompkins began serving in earnest at the start of 2016. All the way through to the year's end, Sheriff Tompkins was recognized for his work on numerous occasions by a host of different community organizations and associations. Most notable among the list were: the Boston NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), which bestowed the "President's Award" upon Sheriff Tompkins; the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus, who presented him with the "Good Guys Award"; the Urban League's "Lee F. Jackson Award"; the "Friend of the Firefighters Award" given by Boston Firefighters Local 718; and the National Labor Assistance Professionals (LAP) "Man of the Year Award"; along with his selection as one of the "GK 100: Boston's Most Influential People of Color" by Get Connected! Also, for the second straight year, Sheriff Tompkins was chosen as one of El Planeta Newspaper's "Powermeter 100 Most Influential People in the Latino Community."

And, though he's held the title for the past four years, the advent of the new-year will mark the first time that Sheriff Tompkins will begin serving a full six-year term at the Department's helm having won reelection this past November in resounding fashion. With new initiatives on the horizon and a full-slate of programming, services and outreach planned for 2017, Sheriff Tompkins and the Department look forward to continuing in our efforts to make the neighborhoods of Suffolk County and beyond safer, healthier and more vibrant for everyone.

# SCSD Welcomes New Custody Staff Members and Congratulates Officers on Law Enforcement Achievements



As Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department enter the new year, we would like to recognize the 53 new officers who have graduated our Correction Officer Training Academy in 2016. These law enforcement professionals are critical to the accomplishments and successes of the Department, and we look forward to the contributions that our newest staff members will make throughout their careers.

During the past year, the Department hosted two Correction Officer Training Academies (COTA), the first beginning on January 25th and lasting until April 22nd, and the second beginning on July 11th and lasting until October 7th.

To become a member of the custody staff at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, each officer completed a comprehensive training that challenged participants both physically and mentally as it prepared them for life as a correction officer. This included completing 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, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, sexual harassment, cross-gender supervision and report writing, among a host of others.

At the conclusion of their training both Academy classes celebrated at graduation ceremonies, which were attended by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and several members of his Executive Team including: Superintendent-In-Chief Michael Harris, House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith, Deputy Superintendent of the House of Correction Richard McCarthy, Deputy Superintendent of the Nashua Street Jail Cliff Carney, and Assistant Deputy Superintendent and Supervisor of Training Jose Mojica, along with several members of the Training Division and Honor Guard.

For the participants of the academy, the road to success may often have been a challenging one that

required great focus and dedication to navigate, but it was a trip well worth taking. All of our new officers entered the Chelsea Training Academy as recruits and worked diligently over a 13-week training period; and today serve the Department.

In addition to the graduates from the Correction Officer Training Academy, the Department this year also congratulated several veteran officers as they pursued additional law enforcement training opportunities. Recently, in December of 2016, we had five members of the Department graduate from the New England Law Enforcement Training Reserve Police Academy. The coursework for this Academy featured topics such as Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, Motor Vehicle Law, use of force, defensive tactics, domestic violence, court room preparation, applied patrol procedures and more.

Congratulations to the New England Law Enforcement Training Center Class 16-04: Deputy Michael Carmenatty, Deputy Ryan Clark, Deputy Robert Flynn, Deputy Dave Thompson and Sergeant Jarrod Trovato. Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Department also congratulated five officers upon their completion of the New England Law Enforcement Training Center, which trains them to assist municipal police departments, to assist with special events, support law enforcement in times of crisis, and much more. Congratulations again to Sergeant Brendan Walsh, Deputy Paul Greene, Sergeant Tyler Peters and Deputy Nicholas Lopriore. As a Department, we are all most appreciative of these individuals and their commitment and dedication toward self-improvement, as officers who are sworn to oversee the care and custody of those people remanded to our facilities, and in the service of the communities within Suffolk County.





## SCSD WORKS TO STEM TIDE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE WITH **VIVITROL PROGRAM**

Addiction and substance abuse is an issue that a high percentage of men and women at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department struggle with. With many treatment options available, the Vivitrol program at the Suffolk County House of Correction offers a medically-assisted treatment plan for men and women looking to overcome their opiate and alcohol addiction and turn their lives around.

Men and women who participate in the Vivitrol program are given the option to obtain an injection prior to their release, in addition to post-release referral for a series of monthly injections, that block receptors in the brain to both drugs (opiates) and alcohol, according to program coordinator and Social Worker and Wellness Navigator, Christina Maynard.

The Vivitrol Program focuses on creating a comprehensive plan of

medication, counseling and other ancillary services. For the reduction of the mental and physical symptoms of addiction and can assist in easing urges and cravings while program participants attempt to stay clean and sober. Because the Vivitrol medication is prescribed and given by a medical provider, it cannot be abused or diverted.

Men and women are referred into the program based on their past efforts to overcome addiction and seriousness to commit to leading a clean life.

"The men and women in our program are ready to take the next step towards their recovery," Maynard said, "most often they've tried everything else and are serious about stopping their drug use."

Since the program started in fall of 2014, nearly 33 men and women have received the Vivitrol injection

at the House of Correction. The number of those who have participated in the program is actually much higher," Maynard said, as the majority of program participants are met with while in custody, but due to timing constraints are referred to community healthcare providers for the injections upon release. The Vivitrol program partners with more than 30 organizations in the Suffolk County area in order to make sure that participants in the program will continue to be treated at providers close to their home after they leave.

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Vivitrol Program has been recognized as one of the better run institutional programs due to the amount of coordination, and a supportive Sheriff.

"It takes a lot of coordinating to make sure everyone gets the treatment they need, but I'm proud of the work we've done."



# Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Trains Three K-9s in Suboxone Detection

This past fall, three dogs in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit have been trained to smell and detect the powerful drug Suboxone.

The drug, which is similar to methadone as it is a legal substance when prescribed, is difficult to detect and often comes in small, clear strips that can be hidden on the backs of stamps, between business cards, on sheets of paper, and other inconspicuous places. While Suboxone is most commonly used to treat heroin and opioid addictions to suppress symptoms of withdrawal, it can be abused as a narcotic. Detecting illicit drugs to ensure the care, custody and control of incarcerated individuals is a high priority, and utilizing canines and their advanced sense of smell can greatly assist in this effort.

The Department currently utilizes five officer/K-9 teams, three of which are cross-trained in Patrol and Narcotics. The other two canines have singular training, with one specializing in Patrol, and the other specializing in Narcotics.

These K-9 teams provide additional security for Department facilities and search for narcotics inside the House of Correction and Nashua Street Jail, as well as assist other law enforcement agencies in



searches for narcotics, fleeing felons, or lost children.

“The dogs have such a strong sense of smell that makes them much better at detecting drugs than humans,” ADS Mojica said.

Dogs in the K-9 Unit already trained to detect opiates received this additional training to assist them in the detection of Suboxone. Currently, three dogs have been trained to detect Suboxone. Canine Tucker, led by Corporal Julie Wilder, was the first to be fully certified, and Tuko, led by Corporal Tim Frates, recently

completed the Boston Police Dog Training Academy. A final canine is currently completing training at the Boston Police Dog Training Academy and will be joining the Department in the upcoming year.

Both Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department are proud to see the K-9 Unit expand and develop new drug interdiction efforts to protect those mandated to our care and custody. Stay tuned to learn more about our K-9 Unit and for more information visit our website: [www.scsdma.org](http://www.scsdma.org)

# Sheriff Tompkins and Department Host United States Attorney General Loretta Lynch for Discussion About Re-Entry, Criminal Justice Reform



Reflecting upon the highlights of the past year, perhaps one of the most notable was the visit to the Suffolk County House of Correction by United States Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch. Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Department welcomed U.S. Attorney General Lynch for a daylong discussion about reentry, recidivism, and criminal justice reform. With so much of the national dialogue around criminal justice reform, members of the Department took pride in the visit and being held as a national example of the positive impact that the corrections community can have with respect to rehabilitation, reentry and public safety.

“Attorney General (AG) Lynch came to meet with us to talk about what we do, how we do it, and to see whether our programs can be

replicated across the country,” said Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins in relation to the visit. “I’m proud of our Department because we work hard every day to ensure that our programming is relevant to its participants and responsive to their needs.”

The Department’s commitment to reducing recidivism is at the core of the comprehensive programming and services provided to the currently incarcerated.

“Here at the Department, we place a priority on programming that is designed to help those in our care and custody to re-enter their neighborhoods in better standing with more employable skills so that they have a better chance at a successful reentry and contribute to a brighter and more vibrant society,” explained Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

“The United States Department of Justice is a proud and committed partner with Sheriff Tompkins and his colleagues,” said AG Lynch. “I’ve had the pleasure, privilege and, frankly, the honor to meet with several former and current participants of some very important groups. BRI, CGI and CREW – these programs aim to reduce recidivism and prepare people to return to society.”

“What I was struck by was how graciously [program participants] shared their stories and their pasts and how their paths were really very similar,” AG Lynch continued. “They’ve found people here who believe in them and have helped them to build a foundation, people with whom they’ve essentially formed a family here inside this institution. They’ve helped them to move back home, move back with families, move back with communities and move back into life.”

Following the daylong event, which included a roundtable, question and answer session and various tours, the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department was later featured on the Department of Justice website as well as on international news outlets such as CNN.

# Sheriff Tompkins, Department Host Breakfast for State and Local Legislators



This past year, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Department hosted a breakfast for legislators to present the Department's scope of operations, policy agenda and ongoing efforts to provide services and programming to some of the most compromised individuals in Suffolk County.

Held this October at the historic Parkman House on Beacon Hill, the event brought together local lawmakers and politicians to learn more about the work of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and its plans for the future. Lawmakers from the Boston Delegation attended the breakfast, along with members of the Judiciary Committee, Public Safety Committee and other state and local officials.

The morning started out with an informal discussion with Sheriff Tompkins and members of his staff in one of the Parkman House's ornate drawing rooms. The formal portion of the program was led by Department Intergovernmental Affairs Director John Ward and Director of Research and Innovation, Laura van der Lugt, Ph.D.

"At the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, we help some of our most compromised citizens to return to our community with more job and life skills, and more hope than they had when they arrived," Sheriff Tompkins said.

"As I often say," Sheriff Tompkins continued, "the hallmark of any great society is how well it wraps its arms around its most compromised members."

Superintendent-In-Chief Mike Harris also spoke to attendees about the proposed concept of a Regional Lock-up for Suffolk County, which would bring individuals who are being held for arraignment to

Department facilities instead of being placed into a holding cell at a local police station. A Regional Lock-up would not only shorten the timeline between intervention and care for detained men and women, but it would also allow trained correctional staff to focus on providing care, custody and control of arrestees while allowing police officers to focus on patrolling the streets and, thus, ensuring greater public safety. Dan Martini, the Department's Director of Financial Services, also addressed the assembly about the budget of the Department and the how the Financial Services Division operates.

As the only elected law enforcement official in Suffolk County, Sheriff Tompkins remains directly accountable to voters and is therefore uniquely positioned to lead on issues of public safety, criminal justice reform, mental health and drug policy, education and employment. On average, individuals released from Department custody return home to their communities within one year of booking, which makes it absolutely critical for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to retain the resources needed for successful rehabilitation, reentry and reintegration of men and women in our custody.

In 2017, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department plans to strengthen its continuum of care for the men and women remanded to our custody. This means advocating for bail reform, expanding the criteria for diversionary programming to include a greater scope of offenses, adopting a risk-need-responsivity model for classifying new members of the population, and bolstering reentry services through strong community partnerships and more comprehensive data tracking.



# COMMON GROUND

NEWSLETTER

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