



COMMON GROUND

AUGUST 2017 ISSUE

MEET
JOE TERRANOVA
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY

SUMMER
**ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM
KICKS OFF**

SHERIFF TESTIFIES ON
MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES



Sheriff's Statement



While many of you are aware of our mandate to provide care and custody to the people who are remanded to our facilities, and some of you are familiar with many of the divisions within the Department that help to carry out this mission, there is one division that provides a crucial external function for the residents

and businesses in Boston, Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop – the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Civil Process Division.

This division's mission is to assist attorneys and pro se litigants by processing and then delivering or "serving" the legal documents necessary for civil courts to conduct their business. Legal service of court documents puts relevant parties to legal actions on notice by delivering to them copies of lawsuits, summonses for witnesses, and protective or restraining orders. Additionally, after the courts make judgments, the civil process staff may enforce these judgments by seizing property, garnishing wages and performing Sheriff's sales. In this edition of the Common Ground newsletter, we provide an inside look at our Civil Process Division and profile the person who leads it, our Chief Civil Deputy Joseph Terranova.

You can also read about our 4th Annual Summer Enrichment Program, which employs twenty teens from Suffolk County each summer; the graduation of twenty-five new Department officers from our Correction Officer Training Academy in Chelsea; my testimony on behalf of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association about Bill H.74, "An Act Implementing the Joint Recommendations of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review;" our Director of Women's Programming's address to members of the Robert F. Kennedy Children Action Corps; and more in this issue.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

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Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins delivers testimony and speaks with legislators.



SHERIFF TOMPKINS, SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WELCOME 25 NEW OFFICERS

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently welcomed twenty-five new officers into the corrections profession at the graduation ceremony held for Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) Class 17-01.

Sheriff Tompkins, members of the Department and loved ones of the graduating officers gathered in the auditorium of Bunker Hill Community College to celebrate the momentous occasion. During his address, Sheriff Tompkins congratulated the new officers and welcomed them to their new place of employment at the Suffolk County Jail.

Graduates of COTA Class 17-01 completed an intensive 13-week 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.

Following the swearing-in ceremony for his fellow new officers, COTA 17-01 Class President Jonathan Mendez took to the podium to congratulate the new officers and thank their families and supporters.

Award recipients for COTA Class 17-01 included: Kory Sandstedt, Top Gun Award; Sean O'Hare, Defensive Tactics Award; Marqui Murphy, Drill Instructors Award; Marcus Price, Physical Training Award; and Romara Pearsull, Unit Citation Award.

The other members of COTA Class 17-01 are: Nicholas Bearne, Patrice Constantin, Lisette Cordero, John Demore, Leroy Fernandes, Raul Garcia, Morris Keniston, Casey LaGrassa, Franklin Lemus-Pena, Brian Martin, Thomas Maguire, Sean McGuirl, Jonathan Mendez, James O'Doherty, Max Pacheco, Jeffrey Reale, Luis Rosado, Jose Teixeira, and John Vega.





Joseph Terranova

Chief Civil Deputy

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Joseph Terranova currently serves as the Chief Civil Deputy of the Civil Process Division at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Joining the Department in 2012, Terranova has overseen Civil Process for the past 5 years.

"Before I came into the Department, I practiced law for 21 years," said Terranova. "I was interested in getting back into government work and when the opportunity presented itself here at the Department, I took it. When I was hired, I decided to close my practice and focus on my work here."

In his current role, Terranova oversees the entire Civil Process Division, which includes nine law enforcement deputies and several administrative staff members. On a

daily basis, Terranova works diligently to ensure that the division operates efficiently and within the bounds of the statutes that govern it.

As the Chief Civil Deputy of the Civil Process Division, Terranova is responsible for its overall operation along with the aforementioned management of all uniformed staff deputies and administrative staff.

"In my current role, I want to make sure that the Civil Process Division is the best possible face of the Department in terms of our professionalism, efficiency, and responsiveness to the needs of our public."

Terranova truly enjoys helping the people who come to the division for services. It is, he explains, a very rewarding experience.

"I really enjoy it when I can help an attorney or an individual get a result that they were looking for from the Department," said Terranova. "If customers present us with a situation and it looks like they don't quite understand the role that we play in it, I'm happy to explain it to them and effectuate whatever it is that they need to have done."

Reflecting on his time with the Department, Terranova stated, "Every day is different and I'm able to work with court procedures in different disciplines including personal injury, contract law, petitions and citations, notice to show cause and all of the many other services that we're entrusted to deliver through this Division. It's a very satisfying job and I get to work with great people."

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CIVIL PROCESS DIVISION



“For employees working in the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department Civil Process Division, every day offers different responsibilities. With more than 25,000 matters handled each year, the Civil Process team of experienced deputies and administrators carry out a multitude of tasks in an effort to get important legal documents served quickly and correctly.

“Beyond the Sheriff’s Department responsibilities for care, custody and control, there is another statutory function; civil law enforcement. This means that the Department must serve any and all writs and precepts lawfully presented,” said Joe Terranova, Chief Deputy of the Civil Process Division.

The Civil Process Division diverges from other parts of the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department because it deals with civil law as opposed to criminal law. Civil law and civil enforcement includes anything from the courts that is not criminal. Such examples include divorce and custody proceedings, suits between individuals seeking money damages, injuries, tenant laws and much more.

The Division works closely with attorneys, individuals and the courts to serve summons, subpoena notices and orders that are issued from the various civil courts in the Commonwealth. Civil Process serves documents at every stage of litigation, from the initial summons and complaint, to deposition and trial subpoenas, and finally to post-judgment writs.

Chief Civil Deputy Joe Terranova oversees a staff of deputy sheriffs and administrative professionals who receive clients, appropriately responding to their needs, and provide the distribution and service of court documents.

“We are interacting with people on a daily basis and are handling thousands of matters in a year,” said Terranova. “For each individual person that comes in, however, that matter is the most important thing going on in their life and we do our best to deliver the best service possible.”



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT KICKS OFF SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently welcomed 20 high school students from Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere to participate in the Department's Fourth Annual Summer Enrichment Program.

Launched in the summer of 2014, the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) was created to provide summer employment for Suffolk County teens who are interested in pursuing a future career in law enforcement. These paid internships are targeted for high school juniors and seniors who have an expressed interest in learning about the criminal justice system with a focus on law enforcement, the court system, social work and several other related fields of employment.

The program was also envisioned as an opportunity to bring together uniformed officers and young people for the purpose of fostering positive relationships between them.

"We put this program together for a couple of reasons," said Sheriff Tompkins. "The first reason was that we wanted to get young folks interested and involved in having careers within the criminal justice system. A lot of people don't really understand what law enforcement -- particularly corrections -- is all about, and we wanted our participants to experience it from this vantage point so that the people who are thinking about employment in the field of criminal justice will get a real understanding about what goes on here."

"I've always had a profound interest in serving the community that has served me," said Emanuel Galvoa, an SEP participant from Dorchester. "I really want to help bridge the relationship between communities and law enforcement."

As part of the program, participants learn about the inner-workings of law enforcement through job shadowing, weekly presentations by members of law enforcement, roundtable discussions, law enforcement-related field trips, and educational tours.

Along with Sheriff Tompkins and members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, SEP participants will hear from representatives of the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigations), U.S. Marshals, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, Massachusetts State Police, Boston Police Department, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Boston Fire Department -- and others -- that will provide SEP participants with the opportunity to learn about multiple organizations and network with people from their particular field of interest.

"I am really excited to acquire an even greater understanding of not only corrections and policing, but also different organizations such as the U.S. Marshals," said Katherine Gutierrez Orrego a participant from Revere.

Over the duration of the summer, participants of the program gain a wealth of exposure to law enforcement professionals and organizations and learn transferable job skills that can help them in their future career endeavors.

"Our students come from diverse backgrounds and have different career paths that they are interested in," said Nadia Lovinsky, Coordinator of the Summer Enrichment Program. "It is our hope that with this program, we can help to guide our participants toward a prosperous career in the field of criminal justice."



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins Testifies on Mandatory Minimums

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins recently testified on behalf of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association alongside Essex County Sheriff Kevin Coppinger in support of Bill H.74 "An Act Implementing the Joint Recommendations of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Review." Sheriff Tompkins spoke about the need to repeal mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenders and the necessity of having more addiction recovery and mental health services in the community as a means of preventing and reducing incarceration.



Department Director of Women's Programming Joins with Robert F. Kennedy Children Action Corps

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Director of Women's Programming, Christina Ruccio recently spoke to members of the Robert F. Kennedy Children Action Corps. The organization operates a number of programs and services for at-risk youths and families and hosts a monthly breakfast meeting at Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury. During the program, Director Ruccio gave a presentation to the group about incarcerated women, along with various other topics which included the reporting of demographics for the women incarcerated at the House of Correction, Department programming and details about how the Department prepares women in the program for reentry to society. At the close of her presentation, Ruccio encouraged members of the Robert F. Kennedy Children Action Corps to learn more about women's programming at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and emphasized that the work that she and the other employees at the Department do is focused on the larger goal of preventing recidivism and thereby helping to make the communities of Suffolk County safer, healthier and more vibrant.



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins Joins Criminal Justice Senate Retreat Panel

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins recently joined fellow Sheriff Nick Cocchi of Hampden County, Chief Justice of Massachusetts District Court Paul Dawley, CPCS Chief Counsel Anthony Benedetti, and Commissioner of Probation James Dolan for a panel of Criminal Justice Practitioners assembled by the Legislative Joint Committee on the Judiciary for their Criminal Justice Senate Retreat. Among the issues addressed were criminal justice reform, funding for addiction recovery and mental health services, mass incarceration and several other topics.





COMMON GROUND

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