



COMMON GROUND

OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE

MEET CAPTAIN

MARK CHARLES
OF THE SCSD TRANSPORTATION DIVISION



THE SCSD
CELEBRATES
C.R.E.W. PROGRAM'S
60TH GRADUATING CLASS

INSIDE THE SCSD'S
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

Sheriff's Statement



Along with the many other crucial daily operations that are performed by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in keeping with our mandate for the care and custody of people remanded to our facilities by the courts, transportation is among the most critical.

Sheriffs' departments are primary transportation providers for the Massachusetts

justice system. Here in Suffolk County, our officers made 18,334 trips in 2016 — driving more than 47,542 detainees and inmates to courts, hospitals, and other correctional facilities from Boston to the Berkshires.

In this issue of the Common Ground, we highlight our Transportation Division and turn the spotlight upon the person tasked with overseeing its daily operations in order to continue our efforts to provide insight for our readers into the Department's many functions.

Additionally, we showcase some of the other efforts in our mission of rehabilitation and civic participation with the 60th graduation of our Community Re-entry for Women (C.R.E.W.) program, which provides job skills, housing, and job search assistance to incarcerated women preparing to transition back into society.

We also feature a special art exhibition at Boston's City Hall featuring the work of women incarcerated at the House of Correction who took part in a pastel painting course offered by the Department, the resumption of our Common Ground cable program, my participation in the FAITH (Fighting Addiction In the Hub Conference, and more.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of the Common Ground newsletter and, as always, I look forward to keeping you up to date and informed about the many programs and activities of the Sheriff's Department throughout the year.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

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Department celebrates 60th C.R.E.W. class

Read about the Department's program for women that provides incarcerated individuals with job readiness and life skills instruction.



Meet the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department head of Transportation

Meet Captain Charles of Transportation for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

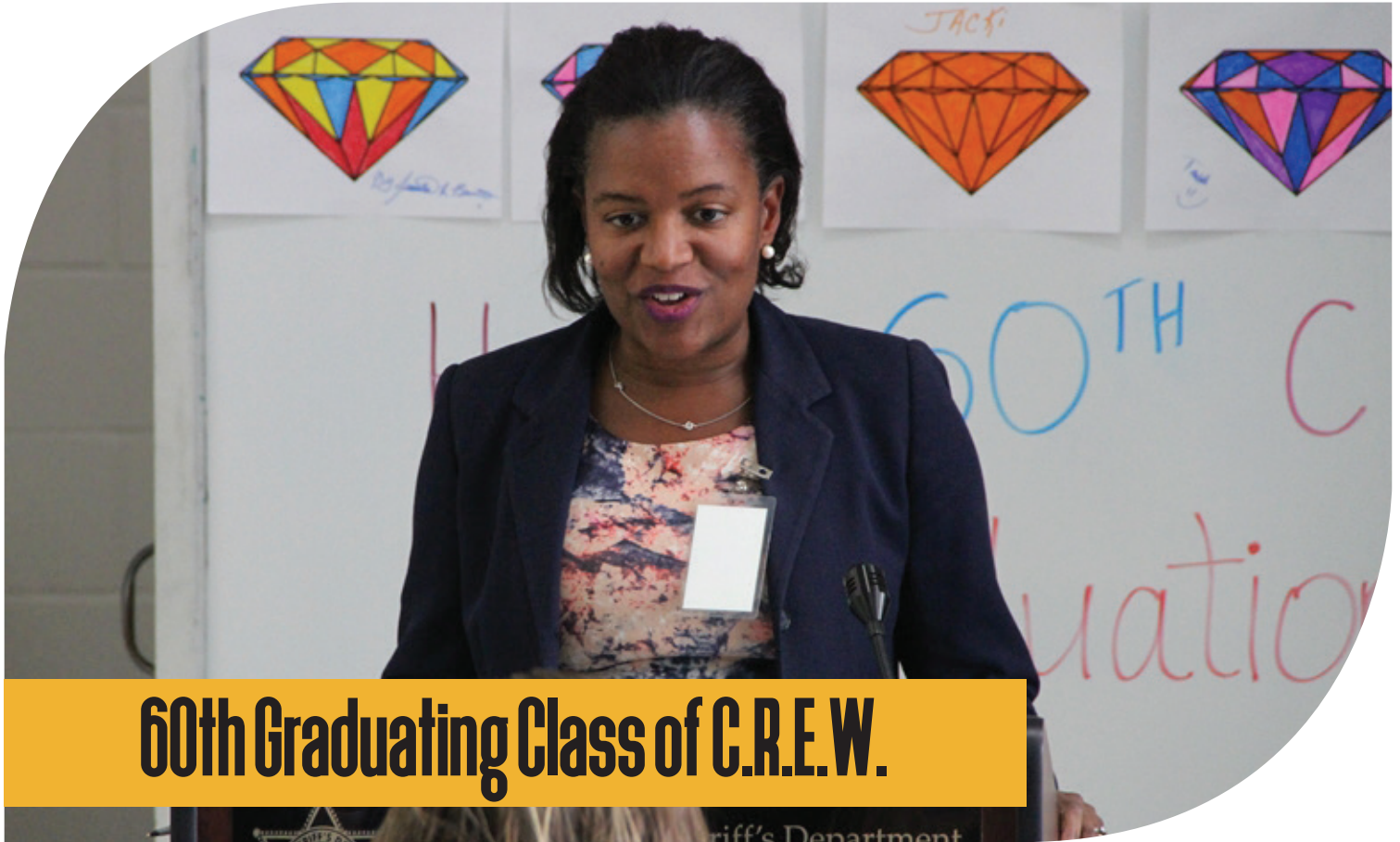


SCSD's Transportation Division

Learn about the many functions of this critical division within the Department.



Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Celebrates



Recently, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's C.R.E.W. (Community Re-entry for Women) program celebrated its Jubilee with its 60th graduating class. C.R.E.W. is a multi-phased, gender-specific, life skills, healthcare service and job placement program for currently incarcerated women at the Suffolk County House of Correction.

Massachusetts State Senator Linda Dorcea Forry gave the keynote address, speaking directly to past and present graduates of the program with a powerful message of encouragement to continue working towards success once they are released and return to their communities.



As part of a greater plan to reduce recidivism, women are prepared prior to release with job readiness and life skills instruction. Thus far, more than 400 women have completed the C.R.E.W. program, a collaborative effort between the Department and Project Place that provides job skills, housing, and job search assistance to incarcerated women preparing to transition back into society.



Captain Mark Charles, head of Transportation for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, began his service 27 years ago.

As a Jail Officer, Mark Charles began his time with the Department at the Charles Street Jail working in the Transportation Unit. In 1992 the Department transitioned to the Suffolk County Jail. During this time the Suffolk County Jail and Suffolk County House of Correction merged their transportation units together to serve the Department as a whole.

"I continued working with the Transportation Division up until 1997 when I was promoted to the role of Corporal doing the same job," said Charles. "In 1998, I was promoted to the position of Lieutenant and my duties really began to change from then on. When I was a Corporal and Jail Officer, I was doing dispatch and communications for the Department, but in my role as a Lieutenant I took charge of the entire radio system."

In his role as a Lieutenant, Charles oversaw the radio equipment for the entire Department, which includes the portable radios each officer wears throughout the Department, as well as the mobile radios that are inside of each Department vehicle.

"In that role, I also was put in charge of the Suffolk County Jail Booking room as well as the fleet, purchasing all of the vehicles the Department has."

In 2010, Charles was promoted to the role of Captain and from 2011-

2014 assumed the responsibilities of Shift Commander.

"It was at this point that I began oversight of all transportation of incarcerated individuals to the various courts and facilities," said Charles.

Captain Charles continues to oversee the Transportation Division with all of the travel by incarcerated individuals at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to various courts and facilities across the state.



An Inside Look: The Transportation Division



The Transportation Division of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department manages all movement of incarcerated individuals outside of the perimeter of the Suffolk County Jail and Suffolk County House of Correction. The primary responsibility of the Division includes transporting inmates to other correctional institutions, area hospitals, psychiatric facilities, and County or Municipal courts.

The Division is led by Captain Mark Charles and 32 specially assigned officers who work together to maintain the care, custody and control of inmates as they are transported. Officers are either assigned or request to work Transportation as part of their quarterly assignments and some are permanently

staffed by members who are selected at the discretion of each facility's Superintendent or the Sheriff himself.



"It's a very busy office; controlled chaos is what it is" said Captain Mark Charles. "The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is a large agency and our Transportation Division is the busiest in the state. Our population here is very dense and we are traveling many miles from court to court. It is not a simple task moving inmates throughout the state every day to the various places they need to go. For an operation this large, it couldn't be run by only one person. We have dispatchers, an office that oversees logistics and an entire team that ensures safety, running well and getting anything that has to get done, done."



"WOMEN IN THE TOWER"

ART EXHIBITION



Work of Incarcerated Women Featured by Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently partnered with the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture to unveil the artwork of six currently and formally incarcerated women. The fifteen works of art designed by these six women were on display for the month of September. The installation was titled "Women in the Tower: First Works From Participants in the Women's Program Services Course Offering of Pastel Painting in the Suffolk County House of Correction."

These six Neighborhood Gallery artists had never touched a pastel before, and the majority reported that they were "terrible at art". Nevertheless, using pastels on paper, the participants completed fifteen paintings for the exhibition. These paintings represent the vision of the women and are a testament to their courage, optimism, and resilience. The art installation was on display inside the Neighborhood Gallery exhibit located on the 8th floor of Boston City Hall.

Last fall, Women's Programming Services at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department House of Correction offered its first session in Pastel Painting under the direction of instructor Peggy Rambach. "Using soft pastel sticks and pencils, the women learned how to underpaint, blend, shadow and observe to produce paintings. The class continues and began its third cycle later this fall."



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Department Debuts New Episodes of Common Ground Television Show

The Common Ground cable show with Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins recently returned from summer hiatus with an overview of the Department and some of its programming, along with a preview of the District 7 Boston City Council race. Common Ground was created as a means to promote public awareness of the programming within and operations of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department while delivering on our commitment to increase public safety and provide taxpayers with transparency of the functions of the Department. The program also invites members of social and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and city, state and federal entities to speak about issues and events of importance to the people of Suffolk County.



Sheriff Tompkins Joins MA Run for the Fallen

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined Massachusetts State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, Senator Mike Rush, State Representative Paul McMurtry, Norfolk County Sheriff Michael Bellotti, Dedham Selectman Dennis Guilfoyle and an enthusiastic group of veterans and supporters for the Annual Massachusetts Run For The Fallen. According to the organization, "Massachusetts Run For The Fallen (MARFTF) 5K Run/Walk is a Military Friends Foundation, 501(c)3 project dedicated to keeping alive the memory of military heroes that gave their lives to protect our freedoms since September 11, 2001. We are a group of runners, walkers and support crew whose mission is clear and simple: to run in honor of every Massachusetts service member who has been killed-in-action or died on active duty since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began. Each mile of sweat and pain and each flag saluted is to pay homage to one service member's life and their family."



Sheriff Tompkins Joins FAITH (Fighting Addiction In the Hub) Conference

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins recently took part in the 2017 FAITH (Fighting Addiction In The Hub) seminar at Florian Hall. Joining a lineup of distinguished speakers that included Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Fire Department Commissioner Joseph Finn, the Honorable John McDonald, Jr. of the Boston Municipal Court East Boston Drug Court, State Senator John F. Keenan, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, Director of the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services Jennifer Tracey, and several other representatives of agencies that are actively engaged in the battle to stem the tide of drug addiction.





COMMON GROUND

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