



COMMON GROUND

JUNE 2018 ISSUE

MEET
BRIAN ONESSIMO
ASSISTANT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE SCSD TECHNOLOGY SECURITY DIVISION



BETWEEN THE WIRES: AN INSIDE LOOK AT
THE TECHNOLOGY SECURITY DIVISION

THE CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:
SCSD'S CAPTAIN MARK CHARLES

Sheriff's Statement



Information technology and digital systems play a critical role at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Whether it be the secure and prolific operation of programs that assist our medical units, canteen services, Individual Service Plans for inmates, court appearances for detainees, email communications or any of a multitude of hardware and software

utilized by custody and non-custody Department staff, the members of our Technology Security Division perform crucial functions to help keep our systems up and running. In this edition of the Common Ground, we pull back the curtain on this division and also spend some time with its leader, Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Technology Security Brian Onessimo.

In this issue, we also feature the Correctional Employee of the Year "Medal of Valor" winner and head of Transportation, Captain Mark Charles, along with the Department's participation in the Urban Farming Conference at the University of Massachusetts – Boston; the Bradston Street Beautification Project; the grand opening of Hope House's new residence program in Dorchester; my return as emcee for Roca Inc.'s annual breakfast event; and more.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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Meet the SCSD's 2018 Correctional Employee of the Year

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department celebrates Captain Mark Charles, winner of the Correctional Employee of the Year's "Medal of Valor."



Employee Profile: Brian Onessimo

Featuring Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Technology Security, Brian Onessimo.

The Technology Security Division

Read about the Department's Technology Security Division, dedicated to providing secure digital information, tools and troubleshooting for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.





SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT CELEBRATE CAPTAIN CHARLES: CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department celebrated Captain Mark Charles for in being awarded the Medal of Valor for actions taken above and beyond the call of duty.

During the 21st Annual Correctional Employee of the Year Awards ceremony, held at the Massachusetts State House, Sheriff Tompkins and members of the Department joined Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Daniel Bennett, other county sheriffs, elected officials and corrections professionals in recognizing the exemplary corrections professionals chosen to receive these prestigious awards.

This annual ceremony is hosted by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), the Massachusetts

Department of Correction (DOC) and the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) for DOC employees and County Sheriff's Departments.

This year, Captain Mark Charles of the Suffolk County Jail was chosen to receive the Medal of Valor Award. The Medal of Valor is the highest award given during the ceremony, and it is given to the correctional employee who demonstrates actions above and beyond the call of duty, in the face of certain and imminent danger to life and limb. Captain Charles earned the honor for actions taken on Revere Beach Parkway on the afternoon of December 31, 2017. While off-duty and in his personal vehicle, Captain Charles observed a uniformed Everett Police Officer who was involved in a foot chase with a male suspect in the City of Everett. Captain Charles secured and exited his vehicle to join the pursuit, apprehending the fleeing suspect who had allegedly committed larceny over \$250 at a local supermarket.



Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Assistant Deputy Superintendent Brian Onessimo began his service to the Department in 1990, embarking upon a career that has spanned 28 years.

“When I first started out at the Sheriff's Department, I came in as an officer at the old Charles Street Jail. During the transition to the new facility – now the Suffolk County Jail – I was asked to perform information technologies work. I started off writing the program for what's known as key control, which involves logging all doors and key numbers throughout the Department. I was also implementing strategies through which the Department could keep track of keys and key-holders at all times.”

Over the course of his career, ADS Onessimo has steadily risen through the ranks, serving as a correction officer for his first five years before receiving a promotion to Corporal. In his time as a correction officer, ADS Onessimo was trained in Records, Booking, Classification and Transportation.

He was then transferred to perform personal computer support and was promoted twice before being entrusted with the oversight of all technology security for the Suffolk County Jail. He was later promoted to be the Assistant Director of Technology between the two facilities – the Suffolk County House of Correction and Jail – before his appointment in 2005 to the position he currently holds.

As the Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Technology Security, Onessimo is responsible for managing an 11-person team that works collaboratively to monitor and maintain all information systems



throughout the Department. This includes, but is not limited to, the Department's computer networks, email system, phone and voicemail system, card access, cameras and more.

“We work to ensure that all of the inmate phone systems are working, computer servers are up, and the security cameras across our facilities continue to be up and running properly. A lot of the job is managing the changes in technology and making any needed updates and switches that require it.”





AN INSIDE LOOK: THE TECHNOLOGY SECURITY DIVISION

For employees working in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Technology Security Division, every day offers different challenges and responsibilities. The Technology Security Division is tasked with providing information technology support and ensuring the security and quality of all Department-wide digital services.

With an 11-person team dispersed throughout the Department, this Division has broad responsibility and authority over most aspects of technology within the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's four facilities: the Suffolk County House of Correction, Suffolk County Jail, Correction Officer Training Academy and Civil Process Division. Of critical importance to this Division is securing the Department's vital technology systems and vast array of information.

The confidentiality, integrity and availability of Department information are foundational to the daily operations of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. The Technology Security Division works diligently to ensure the safety and efficacy of information through managing the phone, voicemail and email networks.

"In addition to information security, we work on the inmate management system, we maintain card access throughout the facility, the telephone network, emails and messaging," said Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Technology Security Brian Onessimo. "It's a big team effort that we undertake to make sure that Internet access and email servers are always up and running, regular maintenance is performed on the security of our firewall and all of our cameras and digital video recorders are working properly. We are constantly helping and supporting communications across the Department."



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Sheriff Tompkins Celebrates Grand Opening of Hope House expansion

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins recently took part in the grand opening celebration of Hope House Boston's new Leyland Street Graduate Program in Dorchester. The program, which offers clinical support to 24 men in addiction recovery, resides in a house that features 13 bedrooms, a conference room for group meetings, living and dining rooms, and a beautifully manicured yard and serene garden. Speakers included Boston Mayor Marty Walsh; Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker; Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders; Frederick Newton, President & CEO of Hope House, and members of the recovery community.



Sheriff Steve Tompkins Joins Harvard University Commencement

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian at Tercentenary Theatre for the 367th Annual Harvard University Commencement. As the Sheriff of Suffolk County, Sheriff Tompkins took his ceremonial role alongside Sheriff Koutoujian, who – per tradition – calls the commencement to order and close each year.



Department Presents at Urban Farming Conference

The Department's Captain David Granese recently joined with urban farmers from across the Commonwealth for the Sixth Annual Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference at UMass Boston. Captain Granese took part in the "Job Skills and Agriculture" panel and discussed the Urban Farming Program that he manages for the Department. The annual conference is designed to advance the opportunities and address the barriers involved in cultivating a resilient and thriving Urban Farming sector.



Sheriff Tompkins Joins Roca, Inc. for Annual Breakfast Event

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins once again joined Roca, Inc. as emcee for their annual breakfast event. Celebrating 30 years of "relentless impact," Roca's mission is to "disrupt the cycle of poverty and incarceration by helping young people transform their lives." Roca Founder and Chief Executive Officer Molly Baldwin welcomed Keynote Speaker John King, Jr., Former U.S. Secretary of Education; Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo; Congressman Mike Capuano, and others who offered praise to both the organization and its tenacious leader.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SCSD Begins Bradston Street Beautification Project

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Community Works Program recently began work on our new Bradston Street Beautification Project. The Community Works Program (CWP) sends properly classified inmates nearing the completion of their sentences into communities to assist in undertaking projects that benefit Suffolk County. When completed, this project will add some new cultivated landscapes and color to the area.



Department Deputizes 18 New Officers

Congratulations to the 18 newly-deputized members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department custody staff! Superintendent-In-Chief Michael Harris and Assistant Superintendent Richard McCarthy led the ceremony held at the Suffolk County House of Correction.





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Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



Suffolk County
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