



COMMON GROUND

MARCH 2019 ISSUE

**SCSD WELCOMES
25 NEW OFFICERS**

**IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:
MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW CHIEF OF STAFF
SUPERINTENDENT
YOLANDA SMITH**

**LITERACY COLLABORATION
VISITS P.E.A.C.E. UNIT**

Sheriff's Statement



If the previous issue of the Common Ground newsletter was a look at the past with respect to the accomplishments and events of the last year, then this edition is something of a nod to the future with several of our stories focusing on events that will help the Department to shape and realize our vision for the duration of this year and beyond.

In this issue, you'll read about my appointment of Suffolk County House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith to the position of Chief of Staff. This promotion will allow us to move forward on a number of fronts, both programmatically and organizationally, with Supt. Smith expanding her supervision to include our community outreach and technology teams, and helping to shepherd some of the new inmate/detainee programming currently in development.

Our addition of twenty-five new correction officers to serve at the Suffolk County Jail will also help bolster our mandate for the care and custody of individuals remanded to our jail by the courts, while undoubtedly providing us with some of the members of a future leadership team that will keep us growing, innovating and evolving.

We also highlight some of the ongoing programs and partnerships that we've strengthened between the Department and State, City and local agencies as we continue to work at broadening and redefining the scope of corrections.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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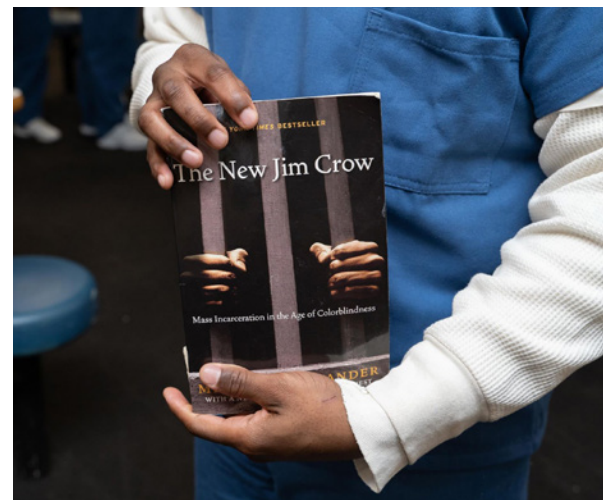
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WELCOMES 25 NEW OFFICERS

Read about the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's recent correction officer graduation.



LITERACY COLLABORATION VISITS P.E.A.C.E. UNIT

Learn about the new literacy collaboration between the SCSD, the Justice Resource Institute and New England Blacks in Philanthropy.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Sheriff Tompkins on WBUR Radio; SCSD Partners Luncheon; and Sheriff Tompkins at the Talbot Norfolk Triangle meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT YOLANDA SMITH ELEVATED TO CHIEF OF STAFF



Suffolk County House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith has been appointed to serve as Chief of Staff for Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

Smith, who will maintain all of her current responsibilities as Superintendent, will assume supervisory oversight of the Information Technologies (IT), Operations Divisions and the External Affairs and Communications Division in her new role.

“I am very humbled by this appointment,” said Superintendent Smith. “This is an opportunity for us to move the Department even further along than it has already come, and I look forward to helping to implement the changes mandated by the new crime bill, which will work toward the betterment of those in our care and custody. We will also be looking holistically at our divisions and determining how we can best work together to insure that the people who have to be here receive more and better services.”

A Department veteran with nearly twenty-four years on the job, Superintendent Smith began her ascent as a Correction Officer, steadily rising through the ranks while proving herself as a dedicated and tenacious asset to both supervisors and colleagues along the way.

“In her work thus far, Superintendent Smith has been a great teammate, a tremendous leader and a powerful advocate and representative of the Department,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “Whether serving the public as a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer, pushing her fellow custody and non-custody staff members to be their best as the Department’s Director of Training, or overseeing an inmate/detainee population of nearly 1,000 and a staff of

more than 500 officers as the Superintendent of the House of Correction, Superintendent Smith has always worked to improve and elevate the Department, and, so, I am proud to be appointing her to this next level of her career.”

Superintendent Smith is also an active member of the Massachusetts Sheriff’s Association Education Training Committee, where she serves as chairperson to the executive branch of the committee. For the past five years, Superintendent Smith has been co-chairperson of the MSAETC Spring Conferences bringing forth new, innovative topics that benefit a wide array of public safety personnel. In 2010, Superintendent Smith successfully completed the F.B.I. Crisis Negotiator course which had various agencies represented from across New England, and she is a 2010 graduate of Lead Boston. She is the lead instructor of the Choice Officer Training program and continues to seek innovative ways to keep the training curriculum current and applicable to the needs of the communities and schools. Superintendent Smith serves on the Department’s Policy Review Committee and is currently on the MCAD (Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination) Referral list of trainers in Harassment/Discrimination prevention in the Workplace. Prior to working with the Department, Smith served as a substitute English teacher in the Lynn Public School System.



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BRINGS 25 NEW OFFICERS ONLINE



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed twenty-five graduates of Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) Class 18-03 to the ranks of officers during a ceremony held at the Aloft Boston Hotel in South Boston.

The event was attended by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, who swore-in the new correction officers, and several members of his Executive Team including Chief of Staff and House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith; Superintendent In-Chief and Special Sheriff Michael Harris, Suffolk County Jail Superintendent Eugene Sumpter and several others. They were joined by a large and enthusiastic group of family members, friends and supporters of the graduating class.

To become a member of the Department's custody staff, officer candidates must complete a comprehensive training that challenges participants both physically and mentally as it prepares them for life as a correction officer. Before coming online as officers, recruits are required to 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, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, sexual harassment, cross-gender supervision and report writing, among many others.

Following his administration of the Correction Officer's Oath, Sheriff Tompkins welcomed the new officers to the Department, and spoke about what it means to be a member of the correction profession.

"To the families and friends of COTA Class 18-03, we want you to know that we appreciate your support, because it has meant a lot to these men and women over the duration of

their training," said Sheriff Tompkins. "To the officers who have graduated here tonight, you are a special group. You will help the Department to be great. We know that we've trained you to be the best and we expect you to continue to strive to be the best. You're now part of our family here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department."

Receiving awards for their outstanding efforts were Jesse Gomes, who earned the Academic Award; Yazmin Alvarez, who won the Drill Instructors Award; Jonathan Marrero, who took both the Defensive Tactics and Physical Fitness Awards; David Gleeson, who shot his way to the Top Gun Award; and Marc Garcia, who received the Unit Citation Award.

Completing COTA Class 18-03 were: Esteban Acosta, Kelly Brandano, Barbara Conway, Michael Davis, Leroy DeAndrade, Abner Dejesus, Robert Derbes, Samantha Falcon, Robert Gianopoulos, Yoel Goulbourne, Jordan Lark, Jourdain Miller, Adriana Milsap-Johnson, David Muniz, Lisa Palombi, Jeremy Stephens, Jamaal Taswell, Ramon Viches, Lauren Weathers and Charles Williams.

Speaking at once about the gravity of, and inherent opportunity in the roles that they have now sworn to undertake Sheriff Tompkins said, "I often refer to corrections as the forgotten arm of law enforcement. But, what you are now entrusted to do is of the utmost importance. With your help, we have the ability to shape and change lives in a positive way that can impact whole families and whole communities, and I look forward to working with every one of you as we endeavor to achieve that goal."

All twenty-five officers are now assigned to the Suffolk County Jail.

LITERACY COLLABORATION BRINGS INSPIRATION, EDUCATION TO MEMBERS OF P.E.A.C.E. UNIT

As part of a new collaboration between the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, the Justice Resource Institute and New England Blacks in Philanthropy, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins welcomed a group into the House of Correction for a "Presentation on Impactful People" given by participants in the Department's P.E.A.C.E. Unit.

Drawing upon a selection that included Mahatma Gandhi, George Washington-Carver, Bob Marley, John Hawkins and others, members of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit delivered their program to the group of donors, Sheriff Tompkins and the other two-thirds of the Community Literacy Initiative: Michael Curry, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Government Affairs and Public Policy of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; and Ed Powell, Vice President for Community Engagement for the Justice Resource Institute (JRI).

"It was very powerful to see the work that the men of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit put into their presentations on Impactful People," said Michael Curry of the event. "They worked across artificial divisions, created by neighborhoods and circumstances, and it was the most moving part of the visit. Change can come, even while incarcerated, when there is a true investment in the men and woman in the care of our criminal justice system. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is proving this with the P.E.A.C.E. Unit."

The P.E.A.C.E. Unit, which boasts an inspirational acronym that spells out to: "Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation," is a specialized housing unit that brings together young men between the ages of 18 and 25 who have been remanded to Department custody and provides them with training and programming that has been intentionally calibrated to the mindset of their age group with the goal of breaking the cycle of incarceration and recidivism.

"I applaud Sheriff Tompkins for his innovative approach to care, custody and control," said Ed Powell. "His approach is right in tune with JRI's Mission to get our clients the services that they need to get the justice that



they deserve. My hope is that these young men are taking advantage of the opportunity that Sheriff Tompkins is giving them to hit the "reset button," which I believe they are because their presentations were awesome."

Speaking earlier about his time as a member of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit, resident mentor Carl Clinton appeared to affirm Curry and Powell's assertions.

"I received a number of coping mechanisms, opportunities for schooling and college credit," Clinton said. "I received a brotherhood with my fellow participants in this program. We developed mutual respect for each other. Above that, we developed respect for ourselves."

Following the event, Sheriff Tompkins offered effusive praise to the men and women who helped to make the collaboration and presentation possible.

"I want to thank everyone who helped to make all of this possible, including the members of New England Blacks in Philanthropy, the Justice Resource Institute, the donors and our staff here in the P.E.A.C.E. Unit, its residents and the Department overall," said Sheriff Tompkins. "In order to break the cycles of incarceration and recidivism, we have to pull people out of the loop and begin addressing some of the root causes that have brought them into our facilities. Poverty, lack of educational and employment opportunities, addiction – these are just a few of the barriers to success that the people in our care and custody have to overcome. The Community Literacy Initiative and the P.E.A.C.E. Unit are but two in the wide array of resources that we're making available to help mitigate these issues."

In this first wave of the collaboration's ongoing donation of books, copies of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," by Michelle Alexander were distributed.

BLACK HISTORY & MLK EVENTS



HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Commissioner of the Office of Veterans Services for the City of Boston Giselle Sterling for the City of Boston's Veterans Services' 3rd Annual African American Veterans Brunch held at Action for Boston Community Development's Thelma Burns Building in Roxbury to celebrate and honor the contributions made for, and in service of our nation by these great veterans. Attendees also included Boston Police Commissioner William Gross, Boston Fire Department Commissioner Joe Finn, State Representative Liz Miranda, Boston City Councilors Kim Janey, Ed Flynn and Lydia Edwards, Major Eric Hill and a room filled with veterans of the armed forces and supporters.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY AT IBEW LOCAL 103

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined fellow elected officials State Representative Russell E. Holmes and Boston City Councilor Lydia Edwards, and Suffolk Construction's Trade Partner of Diversity and Community Outreach Officer Corey Allen as part of the speaking program for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 103 Electrical Workers Minority Caucus' inaugural Black History Month celebration.



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST AT THE BCEC

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined fellow elected officials and law enforcement leaders, community organizers, activists, and celebrants of the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 49th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. The keynote address was given by Sheyann Webb-Christburg, who shared her memories of Dr. King, with whom she marched back in the early 1960's.

YMCA'S MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BREAKFAST

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, along with fellow elected officials and law enforcement members, agency representatives, activists, community residents and leaders took part in the Annual Roxbury YMCA "Martin Luther King, Jr. Business & Community Breakfast."



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MLK CONVOCATION

Sheriff Tompkins joined a group of elected officials and community residents for the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation at Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury. Along with Sheriff Tompkins, the event featured Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley; Senator Sonia Chang Diaz; Boston Police Commissioner William Gross; Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; Boston City Councilors Kim Janey, Ed Flynn and Michelle Wu; Reverends Arthur Thomas Gerald, Jr., Jeffrey Brown and Willie Bodrick, II, and many others who came together to honor the legacy of Dr. King.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SHERIFF TOMPKINS JOINED BY GROSS AND ROLLINS FOR WBUR INTERVIEW

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was joined by colleagues in law enforcement Boston Police Commissioner William Gross and Suffolk County District Attorney Rachel Rollins for an a live interview at WBUR Radio. During the interview, guests spoke about issues pertaining to public safety, criminal justice reform & other critically important issues to community residents.



SCSD HOSTS PARTNERS LUNCHEON

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a first-time Partner Appreciation Lunch for the many people and organizations that collaborate with the Department in its mission to provide the kinds of physical and mental health services, employment and life skills training, and programming that will help the men and women remanded to our care and custody to return to society better able to support themselves and their families.



TALBOT NORFOLK TRIANGLE MEETING

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins spoke before the Talbot Norfolk Triangle (TNT) Neighbors United earlier and shared with attendees some of the work that he's doing at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to improve the lives of those in our care and custody, which will ultimately help to bring greater health, safety and security to the communities into which they will be returning.



SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

2019 SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



**JULY 8, 2019-
AUGUST 23, 2019**



APPLY NOW

This program will invite twenty participants to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to learn more about careers in law enforcement. Participants will work 21 hours a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8am-4pm beginning July 8, 2019 and will be compensated at a rate of \$12 an hour.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Summer Enrichment Program targets incoming 11th and 12th graders and provides them with the opportunity to intern at Suffolk County Jail, the House of Correction, Chelsea Training Facility and Civil Process.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be entering either the 11th or 12th grade
- Must be resident of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop or Revere
- Interest in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice
- Proper form of Identification (Student ID, Passport, Mass ID or Driver's License)
- Active Checking or Savings Account
- Updated Physical Form From Doctor

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, April 19, 2019
APPLY TODAY:
WWW.SCSDMA.ORG

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