



COMMON GROUND

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019 ISSUE



SUMMER ENRICHMENT

program

Sheriff's Statement



In this issue of the Common Ground newsletter, we proudly showcase the participants of our Sixth Annual Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), our summer internship program for juniors and seniors in Suffolk County. The SEP was created as both a vehicle to connect young people interested in law enforcement and criminal justice careers with agencies and representatives in the field, and also as a means of bringing youths and mem-

bers of law enforcement together in an effort to strengthen community relationships.

We also spotlight our recent correction officer graduation from our Correction Officer Training Academy Class 19-01, hear from a graduate of that class in our Employee Profile, and take a look at the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission in our ongoing "Partner of the Month" feature.

Finally, we showcase our Special Sheriff Yolanda Smith with her participation on a panel for "My Life, My Choice," and we highlight the visit to our Women's Programing Division by tradeswomen from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, and Building Pathways Boston in our trip "Around Suffolk County."

— Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



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THE SCSD'S 2019 SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM CONCLUDES



The Department celebrates the 2019 participants of the Summer Enrichment Program, a summer internship for high school juniors and seniors which is now in its sixth year.

SCSD WELCOMES 26 NEW OFFICERS



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently graduated twenty-six new officers with Correction Officer Training Academy Class 19-01.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Special Sheriff and Superintendent of the House of Correction Yolanda Smith participates as a panelist for "My Life My Choice" and the Department hosts a visit for incarcerated women by a group of tradeswomen from local organizations.

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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PARTNER OF THE MONTH

Kobina Adeniji Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor At Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's "Partner of the Month" series highlights the outside agencies and organizations that are working with us to help improve the lives and increase opportunities for the men and women remanded to our care and custody by the courts. Each month, we highlight these collaborations between our organizations and shed light on some of the ways in which we are readying people to reenter their communities better prepared to provide for themselves and their families.

This month, we feature our community partner Kobina Adeniji who is the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (Mass Rehab). Adeniji describes Mass Rehab as an organization that provides comprehensive services to people living with disabilities, that maximizes their quality of life and economic self-sufficiency in the community. As a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Adeniji excels in a community that thrives on those who are ready to work and willing to participate in the job research process. It is through this lens that he searches for and selects the people who embody similar qualities to bring into and promote within his organization.

Adeniji takes pride in the work that his organization does because he is able to assist in filling a void that would normally go unmet. He has noticed that many "people do not have access to employment because of their CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) or their disabilities, but with Mass Rehab, that barrier is lifted and employment is possible."



Mass Rehab's partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department helps Adeniji spread resources to more disadvantaged individuals. Adeniji comes into both the Suffolk County House of Correction and The Suffolk County Jail on a monthly basis to speak with the residents about the many resources Mass Rehab has to offer. He is enthusiastic to work with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department because our partnership initiates the warm handoffs for our returning citizens to Mass Rehab, an organization that is passionate about helping those who are at a disadvantage, lift the barriers in order to achieve a better quality of life.

To learn more about Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, visit: 40 Dimock Street 3rd Floor Roxbury, MA 02119 or call (617) 442-5510



SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM CONTINUES GROWTH IN SIXTH YEAR

In 2014, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins created the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) with the intent of accomplishing two different objectives. The first was to provide employment for young people who are interested in law enforcement and the second was to give them the opportunity to build positive relationships with members of the law enforcement and criminal justice community. Six years later, serving more than 100 participants, the SEP is still going strong and improving each year.

This year, nineteen interns were selected from neighborhoods throughout Suffolk County to participate in the seven-week program, which began in early July and concluded in late August. Over the duration of the internship, SEP members were assigned to posts every Monday within the Department at either the House of Correction, the Suffolk County Jail, the Chelsea Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) or Civil Process. On Wednesday's and Friday's, they paid visits to other law enforcement, criminal justice and public agencies to begin the day, and then sat for presentations made by a variety of different speakers from criminal justice, law enforcement, elected office and other professions to end their afternoons.

Among the many places that the SEP interns visited included: the Massachusetts State House, the Suffolk County District Attorney's office, the U.S. Marshals' office, the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority) Transit Police Training Facility, and the Office of the Mayor of Boston. The interns also visited the Dorchester District Court, the Boston Police Department, the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and more. While on their visits, SEP participants had the opportunity to speak with the respective representatives of each agency including Governor Charlie Baker, Suffolk County District Attorney



Rachael Rollins, MBTA Transit Police Chief Kenneth Green, Mayor Marty Walsh, and Boston Police Commissioner Willie Gross, among others.

“Oftentimes, young people are not aware of all the different opportunities in law enforcement that are available,” said Nadia Lovinsky, Coordinator of the Summer Enrichment Program. “Also, there are some who have been affected by the negative stigma that people working for law enforcement and in the criminal justice system are all bad. We, [the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department] have made it a part of our mission to change these misconceptions each year with each new group of interns. It is important to us that we are helping to put them on the right track towards success not only for their law enforcement career, but for their collective futures as stewards of their communities.”

During their time in the program, interns also got a chance to speak with State Representative Russell Holmes about financial literacy, and they have worked on building strong resumes for themselves. They have also had frequent interactions with Assistant Deputy Superintendent Abe Ayuso, who gave them additional assignments to work on to bolster their skills. The students gave presentations in which they listed all of the valuable lessons they learned during their time with the program. This served two purposes: the first provided the Department with the ability to gauge how much they’d learned through the program, and the second allowed them to enhance their public speaking skills. Before the end of the program for the interns, there remained one final assignment to complete, which had them pick a career in an agency that they have visited, and present on it to SCSD employees to showcase everything that they learned about their chosen agency.

On behalf of Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department, we would like to congratulate Rudy, Jaden, Douglas, Zaria, Brianna, Justin, Luis, Jaelyn, Samuel, Quesiah, Julian, Thy, Clarinda, Sharay, Valery, Tyrone, Daniela, Julieth, and Gean on completing the 2019 Summer Enrichment Program. Each day, these participants showed up to work ready to learn and ready to work hard and efficiently, so we thank each of them for that and wish them the best in all of their future endeavors.



Class of 2019



Clarinda Amado
Greater Eggleston High
School



Quesiah Arthur
English High School



Julian Few
Brooke High School



Sharay Guerrero
Boston Collegiate Charter
School



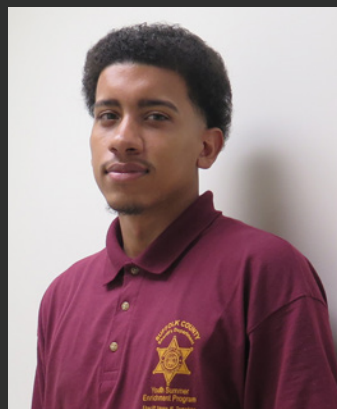
Julieth Lopez
Excel Academy Charter
High School



Tyrone Hester
City on a Hill Charter Public
School



Daniela Londono
Boston Latin School



Luis Pena
Madison Park High School



Gean Molina
Excel Academy Charter
High School



Justin Puppo
Excel Academy Charter
High School

Suffolk County **Sheriff's Department** Summer Enrichment Program



Douglas Tejada Gutierrez
Edward M. Kennedy
Academy for Health
Careers



Brianna Rosa
Blue Hills Regional Voca-
tional Technical School



Jaelyn Taylor
Fenway High School



Samuel Trieber
Boston Latin School



Thy Troung
John D. O'Bryant



Zaria Williams
Boston Latin Academy



Jaden Woodard-Teneus
Catholic Memorial High
School



Valery Ochoa
Boston Latin Academy



Rudy Reyes
Excel Academy Charter
School



EMPLOYEE PROFILE Q & A WITH: OFFICER YENY ALVAREZ

Question: What was it like being in the academy for 13 weeks?

Answer: Being in the academy for 13 weeks was challenging, but I learned a lot of valuable information that has fully prepared me to be in the units.

Q: What was the hardest/most challenging part for you?

A: The hardest part was retaining so much information in such a short amount of time. There were exams that we had to take and we could not score lower than an 80, because we were required to maintain a certain grade point average. The academy as a whole is very challenging, so you must be disciplined. There were times when I was very sore the next day after doing the physical training.

Q: What was the most rewarding part?



A: The most rewarding part of the academy was finishing the academy and finally becoming a correction officer. I worked so hard during the 13 weeks, so it felt really good that my hard work had paid off.

Q: What motivated you to conquer this journey – what kept you going?

A: I just do not believe in giving up, no matter how difficult it is. I am currently in the Marine Corps Reserve, so that has helped prepare me for academy. The physical training that we had to do during the academy is similar to what I do in the military. Also, it is just a mindset. If you believe that you can accomplish it, and stay strong, that will help to keep you going.

Q: Where are you now (Jail/HOC) and how is it going so far?

A: Now that I am correction officer, I work at the Suffolk County Jail and it is going well so far. For my first week and a half on the job, the men took some time to adjust to me and my style of working the unit.

Q: What advice would you give future officer candidates?

A: I would remind future officer candidates that it really is all about your mindset. A strong mindset will get you through the academy. Also, I would say to start getting physically prepared. If you are not used to running long distances, then that is definitely something you will want to work on.

1 TWENTY-SIX NEW OFFICERS WELCOMED INTO SERVICE AT DEPARTMENT



For the past thirteen weeks, twenty-six former trainees dedicated their lives to becoming future correction officers for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. The officer candidates went through a rigorous program at the Chelsea Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA), where they spent more than 500 hours in the classroom and in the field getting trained academically and physically.

Officer candidates are required to complete a comprehensive and demanding curriculum with a syllabus that contains more than forty different topics, which they must learn and show proficiency in through testing. Some of the topics include, among others; Ethics and Professionalism, Courtroom Testimony, Supervision of Inmates, Fire Safety, Use of Force, CPR Certification and Report Writing. The physical training involves core exercises with a focus on strengthening the body so that officer candidates are prepared to perform all of the functions necessary to work as a correction officer.

The President of COTA Class 19-01, Hector Quero, spoke at the graduation, saying, "The academy was very hard. It was not the physical training, or the tests, or constant fear of doing something wrong – it was the mindset. Nothing made this academy harder than the mindset."

Though the officer candidates faced many challenges, they did not give up. They worked as one cohesive team to accomplish their end-goal of becoming correction officers. On June 28, 2019, they were all sworn into service by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, who was joined by Special Sheriff Yolanda Smith and other Department officials.

The members of COTA Class 19-01 are: Yeny Alvarez, Tre Barrows, Dorien Bazmore, Christina Bennett, Michael Coke, Christopher Depina, Mark Depina, Jessica Egan, Khadijah Ellison, Xavier Hill, Dahnielle Jones, William Kalinski, Azam Khan, Kerson Lara Jr., Khalil Mafhoum, Shraya Manick, Phearun Mao, Joseph Martinez, Garrett Mitchell, Anas Savah Mtet, Robert Pace, Hector Quero, Elvis Rodriguez, Sherron Scott, Daitannah Smith, and Allan Torres.

Sheriff Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department would like to congratulate each of the members of COTA Class 19-01 for working extremely hard and earning their place in the Department. As the newest members of the Department prepared to begin their collective journey on the job, they were encouraged to always remember the thoughtful advice offered by Assistant Deputy Superintendent Jose Mojica about the three words that have sustained him over his twenty-four-plus years with the Department.

"The first word is 'Fair,' said ADS Mojica. "Treat everyone that you come across equally. The second word is 'Firm.' Policy and procedures are set in place to provide structure, so make sure that you abide by them as well as enforce the rules that are in place. They are there to ensure your safety and the orderly function of the facility. The last word is 'Consistency.' Maintain principles and moral judgment on every shift that you work. Your new career gives you authority over people's lives, but the way you conduct yourself is how you earn your respect."



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Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



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AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

“WOMEN IN TRADES” VISIT HOUSE OF CORRECTION, WOMEN’S PROGRAMMING DIVISION

The Women’s Programming Division at the House of Correction recently hosted a group of women from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades and Building Pathways Boston, which is a program that provides assistance to low-income Boston residents who are interested in beginning a career in the construction industry. Presenters described their respective experiences on the job to the women in attendance, explained what the work entails, and listed the things that they would need to do to either join the union or the Building Pathways program. One of the biggest challenges that incarcerated men and women face when they are released is finding employment. The Department makes great efforts to mitigate this issue in an effort to both reduce recidivism and help the men and women to start off on a new path toward success. The union is CORI friendly, and members have the opportunity to make a substantial amount of money that can support them and provide crucial benefits like health insurance. By all accounts, the presenters left their audience feeling hopeful and inspired about their futures.

In the photo, starting from the left, we have Kathleen Santora, Alex Colonna and Michelle Hennessy from the International Union of Paints and Allied Trades. On the far right is, Jordana Monteiro from Building Pathways Boston.



SPECIAL SHERIFF SMITH JOINS “MY LIFE, MY CHOICE” PANEL

Special Sheriff/Superintendent Yolanda Smith took part in a recent panel hosted by My Life My Choice, a nonprofit organization created to help young people who have been commercially sexually exploited. The goal of the organization is to empower the youths to protect themselves from the commercial sex industry and its predators, to support survivors in rebuilding their lives, finding their voice, and becoming leaders. Lastly, the organization also aims to educate and mobilize a powerful network of allies to prevent exploitation. Lisa Smith-McQueenie, Director of Multicultural Student Affairs at Simmons College, was the other panelist, and both ladies spoke to a group of young women who are in the process of changing and transforming their lives. Many of the young women expressed that their interest in law enforcement and college once they graduate from high school. Special Sheriff Yolanda Smith and Lisa Smith-McQueenie talked about their careers and stressed the importance of education.





SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT DIRECTIONS FOR CORRECTIONS EFFECTING POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



MODERATOR

STEVEN W. TOMPKINS

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF



WILLIAM GROSS

BOSTON POLICE COMMISSIONER



RACHAEL ROLLINS

SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



KIM JANEY

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ARTHUR T. GERALD, JR.

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BAPTIST CHURCH

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