



COMMON GROUND

JANUARY 2020



2019 YEAR IN REVIEW



Sheriff's Statement



As we start on a new century of service here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, I'd like to once again offer my most sincere and deepest appreciation for the custody and non-custody staff members who, time and again, demonstrate dedication, commitment and pride for the work they do on a daily basis to ensure that ours continues to be among the best law enforcement organizations in the country.

I'd also like to take the time out to thank all of the hardworking providers, volunteers and concerned citizens who continue in partnership with us in maintaining services and programming that is of the highest quality to the people in our care and custody as we strive to help them to become better positioned to provide for themselves and their families upon their return to society. The many successes that we've achieved and the new programming that we've introduced this year were made possible by all of the Department staff, practitioners and supporters who joined together in the common cause of rehabilitation, reinvention and reintegration of our men and women. Many thanks to each and every one of you for your efforts, and I wish you great happiness and prosperity throughout the New Year. As always, I look forward to continuing our critical work anew in 2020.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

SANDY ZAMOR CALIXTE - CHIEF
PETER VAN DELFT - EDITOR
OLIVIA SMITH - EDITOR
DAVID HILL - PHOTOGRAPHER
VONEL LAMOUR - DESIGNER

SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PHONE. 617-704-6688

FOLLOW US ONLINE

WWW.SCSDMA.ORG



Index

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HOLDS CORI-FRIENDLY JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held a CORI-friendly job and resource fair that was attended by more than 160 job seekers and featured 43 employers.

EDUCATION EFFORTS INTENSIFIED WITH NEW PROGRAMMING

In 2019, the Department unveiled a new Education Division for the Suffolk County Jail, graduated participants in the HiSET high school diploma equivalency program, welcomed representatives of a new literacy coalition and introduced a host of other initiatives.

MCCOURTY BROTHERS VISIT HOUSE OF CORRECTION, P.E.A.C.E. UNIT

New England Patriots players Devin and Jason McCourty visited the men of the Department's emerging adult program inside the P.E.A.C.E. Unit to speak about perseverance, overcoming adversity and staying positive.

SHERIFF TOMPKINS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF RCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was appointed to serve as the Board of Trustees Chairman for Roxbury Community College.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT CONTINUES GROWTH IN SIXTH YEAR

The Department's Summer Enrichment Program welcomed a group of young men and women to take part in the Department's paid annual summer internship for high school juniors and seniors who are interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement and criminal justice.

CORI-FRIENDLY JOB FAIR OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES, SECOND CHANCES FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

This past fall, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department collaborated with the City of Boston's Office of Returning Citizens, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, and the MassHire Downtown Boston Career Center to create a CORI-Friendly Job and Resource Fair that was open to anyone and everyone looking for employment. The Salvation Army's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center was the host site for the fair.

Along with the Department and its core collaborators, the fair featured 43 employers and employment partners who saw more than 160 job-seekers over the duration of this event. In addition to providing attendees access to a wide variety of industries and levels of employment opportunities, the Department also offered prospective employees the opportunity to have free professional headshots taken for use in online employment profiles and job searches.

Employment, coupled with access to affordable housing and health care, has long been a part of the Department's efforts to break the cycle of incarceration and recidivism experienced by the men and women in Department care and custody. Internally, the Department provides a vast array of programs and services that are designed to not only assist those in its charge with addiction recovery and rehabilitation, but also train people to develop the kinds of skills and practical abilities that will prepare them to better care for themselves and their families upon release. Job fairs like this one are just one part of the Department's external outreach programming involving community partnerships and collaborative agencies.

"We are very grateful to all of the partners who came together to make the CORI-Friendly Job and Resource Fair a success," said Sheriff Tompkins. "We work mightily to ensure that the men and women who are with us receive the kinds of rehabilitative services and training that they'll need to return home successfully and that includes working with partners to provide more and better



opportunities for employment once they leave us." Maia Porter, the Workforce Development Manager at the House of Correction who was one of the main coordinators of this event, concurred.

"The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is committed to changing the community's perspective on corrections," said Porter. "By changing the mindset on corrections, it will ultimately change our community itself. We're showing our constituents that 'yes, there may be many barriers in life, but the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is here to help them overcome these challenges by assisting our returning citizens and their families with employment opportunities and resources to give them the support and guidance that they need to claim their places in our community.'"

Former House of Correction resident Israel Montez attended the job fair ready to take advantage of all that it had to offer. Since Israel's release, he has been outspoken about how he has changed his life around for the better. While he was incarcerated, Montez said, he participated in the Department's Family Matters, a voluntary program under the Reintegration Services Division at the House of Correction. Family Matters works with inmates and their families to strive for positive relationships that strengthen the family unit, reunify inmates with their children while incarcerated, and connect families to support services where needed. Israel said that Family Matters is one of the reasons why he is where he is today. Not only has he been able to reconnect with his family, he also recently completed a men's residential program. Today, Israel is three years sober and hopes to become a substance abuse recovery coach one day.

"I want to be able to give back to my community in the same way that it was given back to me," Israel said. He later went on to talk about how excited and grateful he was for the opportunity to attend the job fair. "The community really needed this; I hope there are more to come."

FIFTY-FIVE NEW OFFICERS WELCOMED INTO SERVICE AT THE DEPARTMENT IN 2019



This year, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed 55 new custody members into the Department's ranks of correction officers following the completion of their thirteen-week training at the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) in Chelsea. Split into two separate classes— COTA Class 19-01 (26 graduates) and COTA Class 19-02 (29 graduates) – the officer candidates went through a rigorous program 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.

Sheriff Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department congratulated each of the members of both academy classes, respectively, for working extremely hard and earning their place in the Department. The newest members of the Department prepared to begin their collective journey on the job with additional encouragement offered by Assistant Deputy Superintendent Jose Mojica who shared 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 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."

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.

COTA Class 19-02 members are: Mitchell William, Robert Carrera, Damian Shallow, Camy Ducasse, John McHugh, Sean Hannon, Carlos Cardoso, Jeremy Campbell, Vencenzio D'Addieco, Keisha Jagroop, Marcio Rubi, Kenneth Fernandez, Ricardo, Concalves, Joshua Manolakis, Eric Antunez, Kemi Rodriguez, Irvin Rosario, Peter Starus, Catherine Klein, Saveth Prom, Taylor Sinkler, Brian Brenes, Nicole Clarke-Gaines, Sergy Charles, Kristin Hicks, Emanuel Andino, Michael Difiore, Dereke Taylor, Quintyn Pilgrim.



PRIDE, POTENTIAL ABOUND AT HOUSE OF CORRECTION HISET PROGRAM GRADUATION

At the House of Correction, the Adult Secondary Education/ High School Equivalency Program prepares students with an 8th grade reading level or higher to earn their high school equivalency diploma or HiSET, the equivalent to the former GED (General Education Diploma). Students study for the five areas of the HiSET: language arts, reading, science, social sciences and mathematics.

On October 30, 2019, a graduation was held for 27 students who worked diligently to pass their HiSET. The men and women in the program proudly wore their caps and gowns while receiving their diplomas from Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, Superintendent/Special Sheriff Yolanda Smith and keynote speaker Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers and former NAACP President Michael Curry, Esq.

During the ceremony, Mr. Curry delivered an exceptional speech that left many students and visitors feeling inspired. He talked about his experiences facing many of the same issues that the men and women in the audience had. He spoke about growing up in a single parent household in Roxbury, where he dealt with poverty and witnessed violence and crime at a young age. He explained to the Class of 2019 that it was not his degrees or accomplishments that he is most proud of. Instead, it is being able to overcome all of those shared obstacles that served as commonalities between him and the day's graduates. Curry's speech centered around a quote from Fredrick Douglas that read, "You are not judged

by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed."

Before ending his speech, Curry left the graduates with some tips that might ultimately prove themselves universally useful to everyone in attendance.

- **"Take inventory of yourselves, take accountability for yourselves," Curry said. "Know what your challenges and weaknesses are so that you can figure out how to overcome them."**

- **"Plan, do not ever trip through life. The best way to be successful is to plan it."**

- **"Anticipate your roadblocks, everything is predictable. Start to think about all of your challenges, and then begin to plan, plan to win."**

The graduation would not have been possible without the leadership and guidance of Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Director of Education Jim Dizio and the entire Education Division. They worked tirelessly with the men and women in the program to prepare themselves to earn their High School Equivalency certificates and High School Diplomas. Although the day was truly about the graduates, it was also a day of joy and happiness for their friends and family members who were in attendance.



GRAND OPENING OF I-CAN ACADEMY

In September, a new and highly anticipated program called the “I-Can Academy,” held its ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the momentous occasion. I-Can Academy was created for the detainees and sentenced men at the Suffolk County Jail (SCJ) in effort to continue education and vocational opportunities that will build skills for success and, ultimately, help serve to reduce recidivism.

Studies have shown that educational programming in correctional facilities help to restore human dignity and motivate individuals to want to return to their communities as more productive, successful people than they were when they left it. The purpose of the academy is to provide a comprehensive educational program to uphold the fidelity to education as fundamental human right and endow individuals with the opportunity of a second chance through positive social networking and resources.

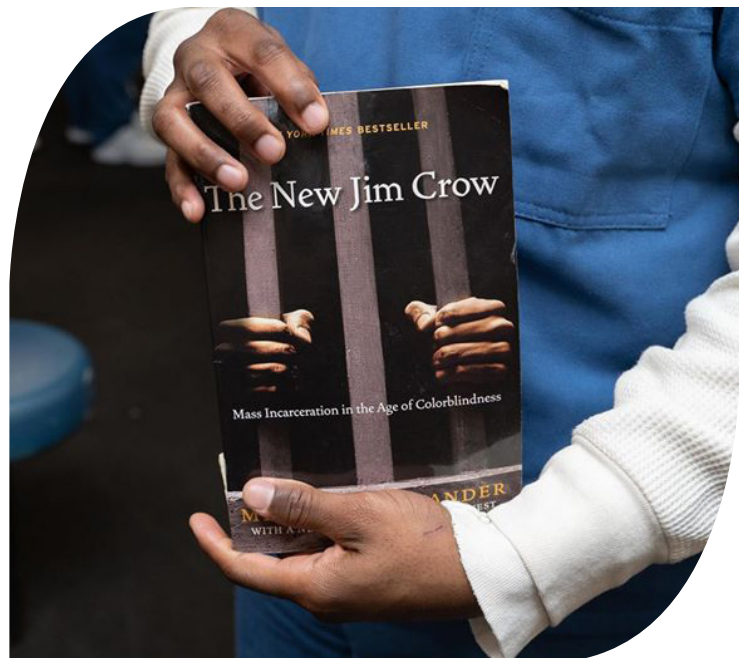
Superintendent Michael Colwell, Assistant Deputy Superintendent Sheila Atkins, and SCJ Education Director Diana Saintil began the ceremony offering remarks about the history of education programming at the Jail, and then selected detainees (scholars) were given the opportunity to speak about their feelings about the program and why they chose to be a part of it. The Scholars were all in agreement that this program would be the start of a more positive path. The Sheriff’s Department is extremely excited and optimistic about what’s to come for the I-Can Academy.



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



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed members of New England Blacks in Philanthropy and the Justice Resource Institute to the House of Correction for a "Presentation on Impactful People" and a donation of copies of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age Of Colorblindness," a book written by Michelle Alexander, to participants in the Department's P.E.A.C.E. Unit. Presenters spoke to inmates in the program about a group of impactful people that included Mahatma Gandhi, George Washington-Carver, John Hawkins and others. The acronym "P.E.A.C.E." spells out to: "Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation," and this specialized housing unit 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.





MCCOURTY BROTHERS VISIT HOUSE OF CORRECTION'S P.E.A.C.E. UNIT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed twin brothers Devin and Jason McCourty into the House of Correction to meet with the participants of the Department's P.E.A.C.E. Unit. The visit was arranged through a collaborative effort between the McCourty brothers, the Boston Police Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for the members of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit, which was specially developed by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins to address the unique needs of the eighteen-to-twenty-five-year-old population.

Though it can be argued that the twins are best known for their on-field heroics as members of the National Football League's (NFL) New England Patriots, an increasingly powerful case can be made that they are becoming equally as famous for their personal efforts to bring attention to the need for criminal justice reform, particularly for juveniles,

and more diversionary programming to communities most impacted by incarceration.

Arriving with neither the fanfare nor pretense that sometimes accompanies celebrities of entertainment and politics, the McCourty brothers immediately engaged the members of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit with an informal but frank discussion about their own experiences growing up in a single-parent household, their struggles with many of the ups and downs of life, including their college and professional careers, and how they worked to overcome adversity. Throughout the conversation, they pointed to the most critical ingredient for their success against the odds, summing it up in a single word – "perseverance."

Jason spoke to the men on the unit about his time playing for the Cleveland Browns before becoming a New England Patriot. During that time, while his brother Devin was making history for winning titles, he and his teammates were making history of a different kind for not winning a single game throughout the 2017 season. Jason's point in sharing this story with the members of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit, he said, was to remind them that, "if one continues to try hard and persevere, regardless of setbacks, good things will eventually happen and success will come."

The McCourty brothers also conducted a workshop with the members of the P.E.A.C.E. Unit in which an organic discussion developed about some of their fears and anxieties based on re-acclimation to their respective communities upon release. As the visit progressed, the conversation became less about the players and their celebrity, and more about how they continually overcame adversity by surrounding themselves with positive people and by making better choices in life.





SHERIFF TOMPKINS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE ROXBURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees by Governor Charlie Baker this past September. A member of the Roxbury Community College (RCC) Board since 2013, Sheriff Tompkins served most recently as Vice Chair of the board before this new appointment. In a subsequent ceremony held at RCC, Sheriff Tompkins participated in the “passing of the gavel” from outgoing Board Chairman Gerald Chertavian, President and CEO of Year Up Greater Boston, and saw members of RCC Student Government sworn into service. RCC is a “co-educational public institution of higher education offering Associate Degrees and certificate programs with a primary objective of providing residents of the Commonwealth, specifically those individuals living in the greater Boston area, ‘optimum opportunity for access to a college education consistent with their interests and aptitudes and to reduce to a minimum economic, social, psychological and academic barriers to educational opportunity.’ The college’s goals are the result of ideas generated by and from the college community and reflect a response to the needs of the larger Roxbury community.”



SHOP WITH A COP 2019



The Police Athletic League had its annual Shop with a Cop event at Target in South Bay. Sheriff Steve Tompkins and a great group of Suffolk County Sheriff's Department officers joined with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Police Department Commissioner William Gross, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, Boston Fire Department Commissioner Joseph Finn, MBTA Transit Police Chief Ken Greene, State Representative Liz Miranda and a massive gathering of first responders that also included representatives from Massachusetts State Police, Boston EMS (Emergency Medical Services) and others. Nearly 400 children received \$100 Target gift cards from participating law enforcement agencies, with many officers coming out of pocket to cover any overages to help make the holidays a little bit brighter for children in need. Special thanks to our unions who contributed to make the gift cards possible - JOEASC, Local 419 and AFSCME 93, Local 3967.





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 William Gross, among others.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

COMMISSIONER GROSS, DA ROLLINS, COUNCILOR JANEY AND REVEREND GERALD TALK CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WITH SHERIFF TOMPKINS

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department held another installment of the Department's ongoing community forum series, "Directions for Corrections" at Roxbury Community College. With a panel that featured Boston Police Department Commissioner William Gross, Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins, Boston City Councilor Kim Janey and Reverend Arthur Gerald, Jr. of Twelfth Baptist Church, a lively and informative discussion was had around the topic of "Effecting Positive Change through Community Engagement."



NEW BEGINNINGS ART SHOW

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently collaborated with the Dudley Cafe to launch a gallery showing of art produced by women in the Department's care and custody who participate in our pastels course as part of Women's Programming Services. Spearheaded by Department instructor Peggy Rambach, the event kicked off with an address by Special Sheriff and Suffolk County House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith, who spoke before an audience that included Boston City Councilor Kim Janey and featured video of the women behind the creation of the artwork on display.



SCSD OFFICER EARNS CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

On May 14, 2019 Officer Randy Gallo was honored at the Correctional Employee of the Year 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony. He received the Meritorious Recognition award for his extraordinary act of selflessness and bravery. Lieutenant Governor Karyn E. Polito, Secretary Thomas Turco of Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and Chief of Staff Yolanda Smith presented Gallo with the award.



Randy Gallo arrived home and heard screaming and panicking voices from a neighbor's home. As he ran towards the noise he noticed a woman faced down in the pool. He pulled her to safety and placed her in the recovery position and proceeded to give her a sternum rub which helped her to dispel water that she had consumed. Gallo remained with her until EMS arrived. Officer Gallo relied on his training to assist a total stranger in her time of need. His quick-thinking potentially saved that woman's life.