



# COMMON GROUND

JUNE 2020 ISSUE



## Be The Change You Want To See

#WeAreSCSD #Solidarity #OfficersForJustice



# TO THE CLASS OF 2020...

[The following is a message to the Class of 2020 presented on behalf of Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. The regularly featured "Sheriff's Statement" will return in the July issue of the Common Ground.]

Class of 2020...you will be a group that the world will forever remember.

During a time when you should have been excited about enjoying your scheduled commencement activities and celebratory events for all of your hard work, you were otherwise catapulted into a global pandemic that changed the world in an instant.

Schools were forced to quickly figure out how some of you could successfully finish your final semesters, or move onto kindergarten, middle school, high school, vocational schools and colleges.

Virtual learning, virtual interviews, and online learning were all instrumental to completing your final school days as 2020 candidates for graduation. The world saw your adjustments and we all began to embrace you for all of your hard work and accomplishments by saluting you through song, virtual commencement speeches, parades and social media recognition.

You have done it! You're moving on to the next phases in your lives and the world is excited about what you will bring to the table in the upcoming years. Each of you already knows how to face adversity, yet succeed. Each of you already knows how to be innovative and how to seek alternative measures to reach your goals. Simply put, the world needs more of that.

Social distancing, sheltering-in-place, and quarantining have become the world's priorities to combat the COVID-19 virus. More specifically, Massachusetts was one of the most deeply impacted states in our

Country. Thousands of people lost loved ones to COVID-19 and we will forever keep their friends and families in our thoughts and prayers during what has been a tremendously difficult time.

Graduates...even during these sad and challenging times, you still had to press forward to finish what you had begun to move on to the next phases in your collective lives. This is why the world will look to you to carry the torch towards a safer, healthier, more innovative and compassionate environment. Your anticipated contributions to the world have now been heightened because you have proven that you can make positive things happen amidst a global pandemic that has adversely impacted the lives of many and rocked the world to its core.

On behalf of the entire Department, we wish you better days and happier times in the next phases of your lives. Many of you did not know how strong you actually were until you were tested and forced to deal with the obstacles you faced. Nurture that new strength and move forward through this pandemic and beyond, knowing that you are brave, courageous and prepared to make significant changes in our world that will only make it better.

Remember, we are all rooting for you and we are all here to help when you need it. Congratulations to each of you. Stand tall and be proud because the world sees you for the champions you are.

**-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

## COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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#WEARESCSD

# OFFICERS JOINED BY SHERIFF TOMPKINS IN STATEMENT AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION



Officers and members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department were joined by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and executive staff as they took a knee in solidarity with people protesting the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police Department officer. Sheriff Tompkins, Superintendent of the House of Correction and Special Sheriff Yolanda Smith and Superintendent of the Suffolk County Jail Michael Colwell spoke about the need to end systemic racism and oppression and voiced their support for accountability by members of the law enforcement community.

"I am extremely proud of the members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department who came out to show their support for achieving justice for George Floyd and ending systemic racism. Often people will say that the system is broken. It's not broken...it's working exactly as it was intended to work, and we need to change that. We're also proud to stand with our fellow countrymen in demanding an end to racism, systemic oppression and inequality."





# SCSD CANCELS THIS YEAR'S SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, LOOKS AHEAD TO 2021

As we are all very much aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected each and every one of us in both our personal and professional lives. With stay-at-home orders for non-emergency, non-essential workers, the closure of businesses and the cancellation of a multitude of scheduled events, dramatic-but-crucially-important actions were taken in the service of health and safety in an effort to prevent the contraction and spread of the virus.

Here at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, we, too, have taken steps to help flatten the curve and keep the men and women who work at the Department, and the people they care for, safe. We have continued with our greatly elevated cleaning and sanitization protocols, providing enhanced protective equipment for our staff and those in our custody, and we have vastly curtailed our in-person community outreach programming. As an unfortunate consequence of these elevated protocols, we were compelled to make the difficult-but-prudent decision to cancel our annual Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which, each year for the past six years, has employed twenty or more Suffolk County juniors and seniors, providing valuable insight into the world of law enforcement and criminal justice for these career-minded students.

We want to thank all of our past contributors in law enforcement, criminal justice, education and first responder agencies for helping to make our Summer Enrichment Program the success that it is, and we look forward to your return in 2021. We especially want to thank all of the young people who expressed interest in participating in the program this year.

As we continue to face the realities of COVID-19 as a nation and we continue working to flatten the curve by practicing social distancing and stringent hand washing and sanitization protocols - even as we begin to emerge on the other side of the pandemic - the Department is working to develop new ways in which we can keep our young people engaged and active in their interest in law enforcement as we prepare to re-launch our Summer Enrichment Program in the summer of 2021.



# SCSD HELPS TO CELEBRATE THE CLASS OF 2020

In addition to the anxiety and stress of trying to navigate through their respective educational experiences during the time of COVID-19, students, scholars and apprentices alike have had to bear the additional disappointment of reaching their academic milestones with little or none of the usual fanfare that accompanies such celebrated achievements due to widespread precautionary cancellations of graduations and ceremonies. To help recognize the achievements of all of the members of the Class of 2020 the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department would like to offer the following gallery of graduates submitted personally by some of our employees.

## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!!



**Caleb Fox**

Brockton High School

*John Abigail Adams Scholarship*



**Taylor Marie Reed**

Boston University

*BS in Neuroscience*



**Annie Broderick**

Mount Alvernia High School

*Destination: Boston College,*



**Bryan Xian**

Brockton High School

*Applied Math + Economic + Computer Science*



**Brendan Neff**

East Middle School, Braintree

*Attending Braintree High School*



**Aerin Wiggins**

Academy Of Careers and Exploration

*Destination: La Verne University, CA*



**Kaleb Baker**

Coastal Middle School  
*Yearly Honor Roll*



**Nylah Smith**

Pre-school (Kindercare)  
*Destination:  
Altavesta Elementary School*



**Karen Cedant**

Simmons University  
*Masters in Clinical Social Work*



**Abria Perry**

Clark Atlanta University  
*BA, Summa Cum Laude*



**Kristie G. Mallard**

Boston College  
*Master's Entry Program, R.N.*



**Kaitlyn Vasile**

Nichols College  
*Double Masters, MBA & MSA*



**Justin J. McDevitt**

North Quincy High School  
*Destination: Boston Building  
Trades Apprenticeship Program*



**Anna Maloney**

University of Bridgeport  
*BA, Cum laude*



**Jack C. Torres**

Avon Middle High School  
*Captain of Varsity Soccer &  
Baseball Teams*



**Laila J. Hopkins**

Boston Latin Academy  
*Destination: Navy enlisted*



**Miranda R. Nieves**

Salem State University  
*BS, Business Administration*



**Giovanni Bailey**

City on a Hill



**Rebecca J. Colwell**

New York University  
*Summa Cum Laude*



**Brandon Twitty**

Stonehill College  
*BA in Communication*



**Kendall J. W. Clark**

Sacred Heart University  
*Masters, Journalism/ Digital Communication*



**Mila Contreras-Godfrey**

Beaver Country Day  
*Destination: Boston College*



**Brendan S. Costello**

Blue Hills Regional Vo-Technical High School  
*Skills USA 2nd Place for HVAC 2019 & 2020*

