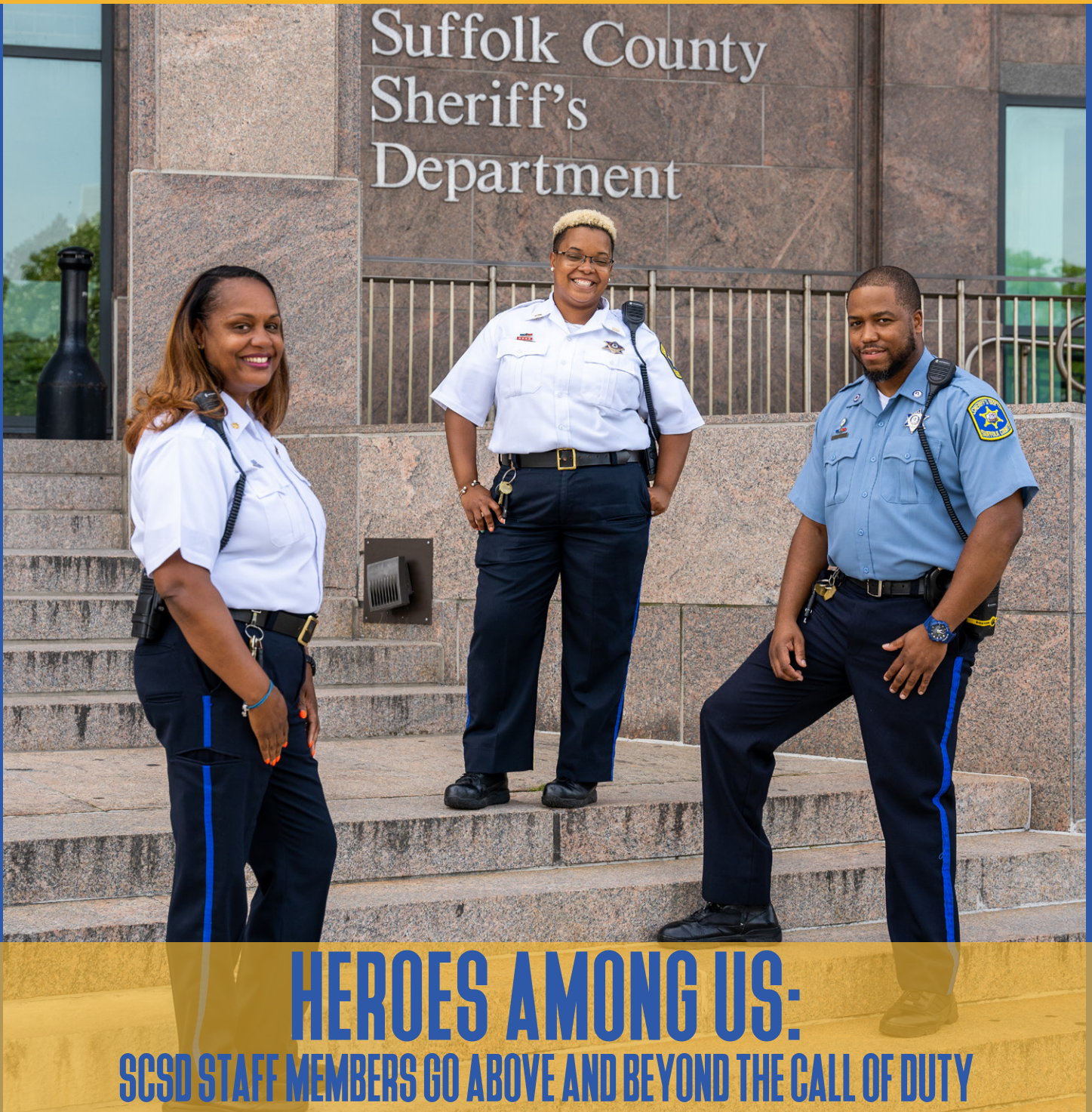




COMMON GROUND

AUGUST 2021 ISSUE



HEROES AMONG US:

SCSD STAFF MEMBERS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

SHERIFF'S STATEMENT

August 2021



Greetings,

In this issue of the Common Ground Newsletter, we train our focus on the heroic actions taken by three members of the Department's custody staff.

In our story about these officers, we highlight the bravery and selflessness exhibited by one of our Assistant Deputy Superintendents at the Suffolk County Jail, Demaris Smith, who leapt into harm's way to protect a fellow officer in the midst of a life-threatening assault by two detainees; and we feature two off-duty Jail staff, LeTeya Flambo and Marqui Murphy, who negotiated their way across lanes of active highway to provide assistance to a motorist with a child in distress.

As I have often said, the efforts of corrections professionals go largely unheralded, uncelebrated and unnoticed through often dangerous, stressful and difficult work.

It is through this lens, and with great pride that we show our appreciation to these officers for their heroism and dedication to not only their jobs as corrections professionals, but to those with whom they share the Earth.

We also bring you our most recent class of graduates who now join the ranks of officers, seeking to carry on the important work of our Department in similar fashion.

I hope that you'll enjoy reading about these and other topics in this edition, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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INDEX



SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WELCOMES 41 NEW OFFICERS

The Suffolk County Sheriff Department recently welcomed the graduates of Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) Class 21-02 into the Department as members of our custody staff.

SCSD MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR HEROIC ACTIONS

Read about a trio of Department staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty for a fellow officer behind the walls and a citizen in need out in the community.



SCSD SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM RETURNS

The SCSD resumed its paid summer internship program for high school juniors and seniors following last year's postponement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Follow us around the county and read about the Department's participation in the Annual Scoops and Hoops basketball tournament; recent deputizations of Department officers; and more.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BRINGS 41 NEW OFFICERS INTO SERVICE



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Department's Executive Team and Training Division welcomed the graduates of Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) Class 21-02 to the Department following a special graduation ceremony in late July.

Held at the Aloft Boston Seaport District Hotel, this was also the first graduation since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic to allow family members and friends into the live event, albeit with capacity limits to audience size.

Each graduate was required to complete intensive and extensive physical and academic training in subject matter including inmate/detainee rights and responsibilities, report writing, lifesaving skills and techniques, sexual harassment prevention and workplace ethics, the use of force continuum, communication and de-escalation, fire safety, supervision of inmates/detainees, cross-gender

supervision, firearm safety and handling, and contraband control, in addition to several others.

"I applaud you for going through this academy," said Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, speaking to the assembly. "I'm looking for individuals who not only want to do their jobs, but excel at them. This work that we do, you'll find, although it's tough, is very rewarding. You are helping people to improve their stations in life. It's our job to provide the care, custody, and control to help break the cycle of incarceration and give people a fighting chance. We are here to support you to do the best that you can do and make your friends and family proud of you, as I am proud of you."

Also delivering remarks were Assistant Deputy Superintendent Jose Mojica, Lieutenant Sean Clark, and COTA Class 21-02 President Shawn Riggins.

Receiving special recognition for their achievements during the academy were

Adrian Williams for the Academic Award; Alexander Kane for the Top Gun Award; Eric Purcell for the Unit Citation Award; Maria Jose Gutierrez for the Defensive Tactics Award; Tayon Watson for the Physical Education Award; and Tesla Gomes for the Drill Instructor's Award.

Also joining the ranks of officers at the Department were Alexander Moreta, Barry Golden, Dario Manon, Dempster Tippetos, Eliana Dos Santos, Ethan Resnick, Eurico Barros, Francis Okafor, Genio Francois, Hassan Almarawi, Herby Milien, Jacob Adeeko, Jake Destefano, Jarred Spera, Jesus Laboy, Jonathan Montagino, Kevin Zhou, Mackendy Paul, Martin Kimani, Melissa Montrond, Michael Fiore, Michael Da Silva, Nicholas Rubert, Raheem Cline, Randy Do, Recardo Beale, Renand Neptune, Rendy Jean-Louis, Reny Baez-Beltran, Richard Barbosa, Roma Monteiro, Steevens Beauvoir, Wilbert Seoane, and Yvens Pasteur.



SCSD OFFICERS IGNORE PERSONAL DANGER IN ACTS OF HEROISM

The work of the correction officer is a critical yet often overlooked function of the law enforcement and criminal justice continuum.

In addition to the fulfillment of the mandate for the safe custody and care of the men and women who are remanded to their supervision by the courts, correction officers also play a crucial role in the delivery of services that are designed to improve the physical and mental health, educational abilities, employable skills, and behavior of the incarcerated population in their respective facilities.

It is a job that is often dangerous, frequently stressful, and almost always performed with little-to-no fanfare or positive recognition. In fact, in most cases, when correction officers meet the spotlight, it is on the notably infrequent occasion of either tragedy or transgression, with no acknowledgement of their rarity in occurrence, particularly when compared to the great many instances of steady, commendable and even heroic service.

It is, in most cases, left to the departments, institutions and organizations to tell their own stories and bring to light just a few of those many untold instances in which our corrections professionals have risen above and beyond the normal call of duty to perform exceptional feats.

The following story highlights a trio of correction officers from the Suffolk County Jail whose actions clearly embody the definition of the word “hero.”

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On the morning of January 10, 2019, an alarm went out from a detainee housing unit within the Suffolk County Jail. Responding from an adjoining unit, Assistant Deputy Superintendent Demaris

Smith, then a lieutenant, arrived first on the scene. As she approached the door to the unit, she saw two detainees who were standing aggressively in front of the unit officer, one of them shoving him in the chest. As the control booth sergeant began opening the unit door, Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) Smith saw the two detainees begin violently attacking the officer, bombarding him with punches as he attempted to defend himself.

“I couldn’t believe what I was seeing,” ADS Smith said, recalling the moment. “My first immediate thought was, ‘are they really fighting him?!’ It was unreal. That was a first for me, to witness it happening right there in front of me and trying to get through that sally port door, which felt like it was opening slower than ever. I was shocked to see them attacking the officer like it was no big deal. We should be off-limits but, unfortunately, some detainees don’t respect us enough to know that. My main concern was to get in there and help [our officer] and try to stop the assault.”

With no consideration for her own safety, ADS Smith raced in and grabbed one of the detainees by his t-shirt and held onto him as he continued to try and reengage in the assault. Though the officer, who had been knocked to the floor, was now lying unconscious with blood beginning to pool around his head, the detainees continued punching and kicking him.

“I didn’t have time to think of my own safety,” ADS Smith said. “I was only thinking of [our officer’s] safety. It was two detainees against one officer and I wasn’t sure if more detainees were going to jump in. I knew I had to do something, anything, to try and stop the assault until more help arrived.”

Immediately, ADS Smith once again moved in and was able to shove both detainees away from the injured officer, holding them off until



help arrived in the form of the Sheriff's Escort and Response Team (SERT). The unit was locked down and medical personnel were able to assess the officer before Emergency Medical Services arrived to transport him to the hospital, where medical diagnosis revealed that the assault had left him with a concussion, an orbital bone socket fracture and a sinus plate fracture, in addition to other injuries sustained during the attack. Ultimately, he survived what could very well have been a fatal assault thanks in no small part to the actions of ADS Smith.

"The incident has been a reality check for me," ADS Smith said. "We all know the risks working in this environment, but to witness an assault on a fellow officer firsthand, it reminds you, this s\*\*t is real. Yes, I would definitely do it all over again."

"I saw an officer in trouble, needing help, so I ran in," ADS Smith continued. "I think any officer responding would have immediately jumped in to help. No one wants to be on the receiving end of an assault. We're a family, at least while we're on the job. Some of us are after hours, too. If one of us needs help, we're all coming if we're able to. We're just trying to do our job and leave safely at the end of our shift."

Though modest in her assessment of her bravery, the Department submitted ADS Smith to the State of Massachusetts' selection committee to be considered for recognition at the Annual Correctional Employee of the Year Awards. Unfortunately, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic placed the ceremony on hold indefinitely.

In another incident, this time occurring off-site and in the community, two off-duty Department officers displayed a similar disregard for their own personal safety to come to the aid of a fellow citizen in great distress.

While driving home on Interstate 93 after his shift at the Suffolk County Jail, Officer Marqui Murphy noticed a car pulled over in the HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) Lane, just past the Neponset exit, and a woman standing outside of her car.

"It immediately caught my attention, because it's not something that you see every day," said Officer Murphy. "Cars are not typically pulled over like that."

Stopping his car in front of the woman's vehicle, Officer Murphy could see that she was crying hysterically and holding a small child.

"As I got to her, I asked her if she was ok and then I realized that her baby wasn't breathing."

Just as he was beginning to assist the woman, another motorist parked in the opposing lane before exiting their car and jumping over the barrier to come offer their assistance. As she got closer, Officer Murphy realized that his fellow good-Samaritan was also a co-worker at the Department, Lieutenant LeTeya Flambo.

"I saw 'Teya parking in the left lane and jumping over the barrier," Officer Murphy recalled in amazement. "At first, she didn't even know we knew each other, that's how focused she was."

"So, I definitely had some tunnel vision going on," said Lt. Flambo. "I only saw the baby and the hysterical mom. When I first approached them, the only thing that kept going through my mind about the other person that was there helping was that 'he must be a first responder.' That kept playing in my head over and over, mainly because this was not something that just anyone would stop for. Even if someone has it in their heart to help, they don't always know how to help so, they keep going. I don't remember all that he was saying, but I remember how calm he was."

As the two officers assessed the situation and began assisting the mother, they noticed an object in the corner of the baby's mouth. Lt. Flambo instructed the mother of the child to turn her baby to the side and use her pinky to sweep the mouth. Though she was still emotionally distraught, the mother was able to dislodge the object.

It was only then, when the baby began breathing again and the mother was able to see that her child was safe that Lt. Flambo would realize who her fellow emergency responder was.

"Once we knew that mommy and baby were ok, I finally looked up to the 'other person' there and, to my pleasant surprise, it was Officer Murphy. We work together almost every day. When we realized that we knew each other we were both vocal, saying like... 'Hey! I know you!' The mom was definitely surprised that we knew each other. She kind of looked at both of us like we were a little crazy."

While their actions were borne of selflessness, character and a shared inner-drive to help others in distress, the inherent danger encircling them in the middle of active highway traffic makes this particular act of heroism all the more remarkable and worthy of recognition.

"I honestly didn't consider the risk," Lt. Flambo said. "I saw a mother and a baby that needed help and I remember thinking clearly that I could help them. It sounds a lot more dangerous than how I remembered it."

"I was honestly just happy that the baby was ok," she continued. "I understood every fear that the mom was going through at that moment. Before I wake up and decide to put my uniform on, I am a wife, a mom, a daughter, a sister, a niece, a friend and a few other things that are not because of my profession. I understand and appreciate that value of life and the people that I love."



# THE SCSD'S SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM RETURNS AFTER PANDEMIC PAUSE



One year after the postponement of the program in observance of safety precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Summer Enrichment Program has returned, bringing in students from across Suffolk County to receive instruction and information about potential careers in law enforcement.

Created and launched in 2014 by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) is a 7-week paid internship that gives young people the opportunity to learn about the multitude of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in and around Suffolk County with the purpose of strengthening both their focus on future employment within the field and their relationships with its professionals. And, though participants still engage in job shadowing, weekly presentations by members of law enforcement, roundtable discussions, law enforcement-related field trips, and educational tours, the Department has continued to mandate health and safety protocols for both SEP members and staff.

Kicking off with a visit from Sheriff Tompkins, the SEP also met with additional members of Department leadership, including the Department's Superintendent of the Suffolk

County Jail Michael Colwell and Superintendent of the House of Correction William Sweeney, and members of the Gang Intelligence Unit, Sheriff's Investigative Unit, Classification, Program Services, Field Supervision Unit, K9 Division, Political Affairs, Recovery and Reentry Services, among others. SEP participants also received training and certification in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) at the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy.

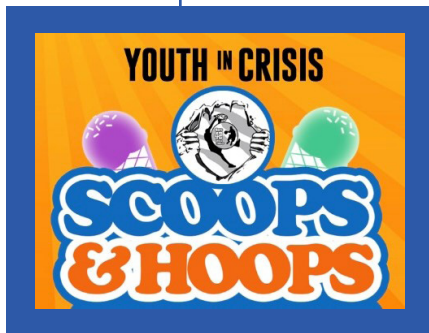
"We are grateful for the opportunity to be able to, once again, offer the Summer Enrichment Program to the students of Suffolk County," said Sheriff Tompkins. "Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to pause our program in 2020, but, as we return to more and more normal functions as a society, I believe that it is absolutely crucial to continue to engage our young people in positive relationships with our law enforcement and criminal justice system."

You can read more about this year's Summer Enrichment Program in the September issue of the Common Ground.

For more information about the Summer Enrichment Program, visit: [www.scsdma.org](http://www.scsdma.org).

# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

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## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN 20TH ANNUAL SCOOPS AND HOOPS

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined Youth in Crisis for their 20th Annual Scoops and Hoops event. Held in Mattapan as a day of unity, recreation and community spirit, SCSD custody and non-custody members once again volunteered their time for the event, and SCSD Chief of External Affairs Sandy Zamor Calixte received recognition from event organizers for her work through the Department and in the community, and for continued support of the event.



## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WELCOMES TEN NEW DEPUTIES FOLLOWING CEREMONY

The SCSD recently held ceremonies to officially deputize ten current custody staff members from the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail. Please join the Department in congratulating Jessica Egan, Franklin Lemus Pena, Shakira Smith, and John Vega of the SCJ and Nicole Gains, William Glynn, Joshua Manolakis, Marcio Rubi, Willem Sheele, and Taylor Sinkler of the HOC.



## SCSD MEMBER TAKES FLIGHT OF A LIFETIME, LANDS 3RD CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

SCSD Lieutenant and Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) instructor Jessica Cabrera was among the members of the professional women's football team, the Boston Renegades, who flew aboard the New England Patriots' team jet on the way to Canton, Ohio where they went on to win their third consecutive Women's Football Alliance Division I National Championship. As a former player and now assistant coach with the Renegades, Lt. Cabrera has now won a record six titles with the team.





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Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff




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