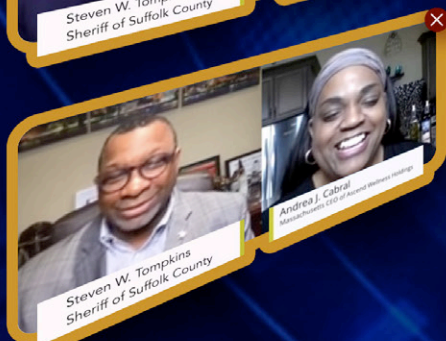




# COMMON GROUND

FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE

## SHERIFF TOMPKINS BRINGS "REAL TALK" TO COMMONWEALTH ZOOMCAST AIMS TO BRING TRANSPARENCY, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TO VIEWERS



## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2022

Greetings,

In this issue of the Common Ground Newsletter, we bring you news and stories from our work behind the walls and out in the community with a focus on our ongoing, informative Zoomcast, “Real Talk In The Commonwealth, With Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins; a feature on one of our many community partners in our Partner of the Month series; my interview with James Hills of the “Java With Jimmy” podcast; and more.

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



## SHERIFF TOMPKINS DELIVERS “REAL TALK” TO SUFFOLK COUNTY

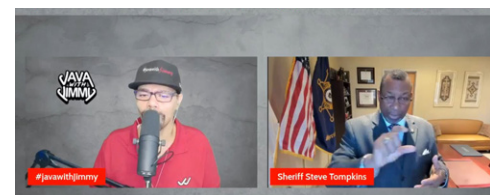
Read about our informative Zoomcast, “Real Talk In The Commonwealth, With Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

## PARTNER OF THE MONTH: COMMUNITY WORK SERVICE

Community Work Service’s Program Coordinator Timothy Muise is featured in this installment of our ongoing “Partner of the Month” series.

## SHERIFF’S OFFICE EMPLOYEE DRIVES INTO RETIREMENT

Lieutenant and Automotive Fleet Supervisor John DelSolio bids “farewell” to the sheriff’s office as he begins his hard-earned and well-deserved retirement.



## SHERIFF TOMPKINS JOINS “JAVA WITH JIMMY PODCAST”

Sheriff Tompkins has a quick “cup of coffee” with James Hills of the “Java With Jimmy” video podcast.

### COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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# SHERIFF TOMPKINS USES “REAL TALK” TO DELIVER TRANSPARENCY, DRIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As the leader of the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins is committed to the mandate for the safe care and custody of the people remanded by the courts to the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail. Through the delivery of critical physiological and mental health services, and a wide offering of academic and vocational programming and training, Sheriff Tompkins and the members of the sheriff’s office work to return members of the population to their respective communities, post-incarceration, better able to care for themselves and their families.

In addition to the above directive, Sheriff Tompkins has also committed himself to improving the public health and safety of the people living in the neighborhoods of Suffolk County through a host of outreach initiatives and informational endeavors that provide not only transparency with respect to the operational and procedural functions of the office, but offer useful materials about civic engagement, the role between government and its citizenry, and how to access resources that can help to make our collective society safer, healthier and more vibrant. The “Real Talk In The Commonwealth, With Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins” Zoomcast is one such vehicle for the execution of this mission.

Introduced in 2020 to help disseminate the sheriff’s office’s message of public safety and crime prevention, and to continue with the aforementioned commitment to provide taxpayers with operational transparency, “Real Talk” brings a broad array of elected officials, local organizations, neighborhood civic groups, community service agencies, and members of the sheriff’s office to the table and into the homes of Suffolk County residents. In each episode, Sheriff Tompkins interviews some of today’s thought-leaders, policy-writers, civic activists and newsmakers for in-depth conversations about events and issues affecting the world we live in.

Prior to “Real Talk,” Sheriff Tompkins spearheaded the creation of and, ultimately, hosted “Common Ground,” an in-person interview program that debuted on Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN) TV in June of 2006. With the confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the advancement of online video communications, and a desire for more flexibility in the frequency and dissemination of messaging, the advent of the video podcast format for “Real Talk” became something of a natural evolution.

A list of some of the program’s past participants showcases both



a diversity of guest and subject matter, which includes: former Sheriff of Suffolk County, former Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and current CEO of Ascend Wellness Holdings Andrea Cabral; the recently elected Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, who was interviewed along with the other contenders for the seat when she was running for the office; Eastern Bank Chair and CEO Bob Rivers; Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Boston; Attorney Rosemary Scapicchio, who had appeared in the Netflix documentary “Trial 4”; Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Alysse Wurcell; Naheem Garcia, an actor and activist with credits in such films as “R.I.P.D.,” “The Purge: Election Year,” and “The Equalizer 2”; Alberto Vasallo, President and CEO of El Mundo Boston, a newspaper and multimedia company focused on the Latinx Community; sports news announcer for NECN Chris Collins; and many others. Most recently, Sheriff Tompkins sat with David Mayo, Director of Reintegration at the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office for an upcoming episode.

“My primary role here as the Sheriff of Suffolk County is to ensure that we are providing for the safe care and custody of our population,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “Carried within that mandate is the work that we do to try and bring the people who are remanded to our facilities to a more successful and viable place than they were when they came to us. But, I am also a strong proponent of getting in front of the curve with prevention so that people never enter the criminal legal system in the first place.”

“One of the ways that we can do this is through the sharing of information about resources, the demystification of government and its processes, and education about how to utilize both to access those things that are needed to be successful. My hope and intention is that “Real Talk” is able to provide some of this, in addition to our other initiatives.

You can watch episodes of “Real Talk In The Commonwealth, With Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins online at: [www.scsdma.org/real-talk-in-the-commonwealth-podcast](http://www.scsdma.org/real-talk-in-the-commonwealth-podcast).

# PARTNER OF THE MONTH

## Tim Muise

**Program Coordinator for  
Community Work Service (CWS)**

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 will highlight these collaborations between our organizations and shed some 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.

In this issue's installment of our "Partner of the Month" series, we feature Timothy Muise, Program Coordinator for Community Work Service (CWS). Community Work Service is a non-profit organization founded in 1877 that helps people who face barriers to work obtain employment and achieve self-sufficiency through innovative job training, placement and support services. Community Work Service offers many training programs such as: Job Readiness Training, Commercial Production Training, Culinary Arts Training, and many others.

When asked what inspired him to work with incarcerated individuals, Timothy stated, "I am what they call a 'Returning Citizen' and I know firsthand the anxiety, trepidation, and unrest one can experience when leaving incarceration. I found out that I am 'wired' to be able to assist returning citizens and, in-fact, convinced my employer to expand the services we provide to that demographic. I have a passion for this work! We know that being a returning citizen and having a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) can be hard to find a job or to get back into the work field while being incarcerated. That's why it's amazing that CWS offers different training programs to help prepare one for returning into the workforce no matter how long they haven't been working. CWS puts its money where its mouth is. We hire returning citizens, we promote returning citizens, and we employ returning citizens at our offsite contracts. We can empathize with the plight and that empathy affords us insight toward solutions."

As we all know, the COVID-19 Pandemic has taken a toll on a lot of business and caused others to face challenges that needed to be overcome. When asked what challenges CWS faced during the pandemic, Timothy stated, "The CWS training programs remained 'open' and 'running' for all but three weeks of the pandemic. In order to provide services, we had to maintain constant vigilance concerning COVID-19



protocols and, through this adherence, we have come out on this side of the pandemic stronger and better equipped to safely assist all who come through our door."

We at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department are thankful for CWS remaining active during the pandemic, because we were able to send men and women into training programs and into the workforce even during such a difficult time.

Community Work Service has been partnered with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for the past several years and amazing work has come from it. When asked what Timothy is grateful for from this partnership he stated, "CWS is so excited about our partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. I recently met with some of the staff members there and we discussed bringing Commercial Cleaning and enhancing the tailoring training programs behind the wall! The future is so bright for Community Work Service and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. I first started to go into the House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail facilities as part of the monthly Re-entry and Discharge Panels. I then joined the Mentorship Team and, during these activities, I was able to form an incredible relationship with the sheriff's office's Nick Lahage, Maia Porter, David Mayo and Karla Acevedo, which lead to our discussions about bringing training programs into the facility. I am extremely grateful that going forward we will be able to assist more and more men and women."

For more information on CWS, please visit:  
[www.cwsnewengland.org](http://www.cwsnewengland.org).



# SHERIFF'S OFFICE BIDS "HAPPY RETIREMENT" TO LT. DELSOLIO

A member of the Department since 1993, Lt. DelSolio spent the better part of his 29 years and nine months helping to keep the Department's fleet of motor vehicles up and running, and their operators safe and sound. He also taught Basic Automotive class to inmates and has had the added responsibility of supervising the Maintenance Division.

In the photos you see here, a group of close colleagues held an impromptu lunch party for Lt. DelSolio (pictured second from right in the top photo) to express their appreciation for his work, his dedication and, most importantly, his friendship.



On behalf of everyone here at the Department, we wish John the absolute best in his future endeavors. Your retirement will be envied by many, but your constant presence will be missed by all.

Please join the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in wishing a happy, enjoyable and hard-earned retirement to Lieutenant and Automotive Fleet Supervisor John DelSolio.





SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS &  
THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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# SHERIFF TOMPKINS STOPS IN FOR A CONVERSATION, “JAVA WITH JIMMY”



Recently, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined James Hills for his “Java With Jimmy” video podcast.

During this wide-ranging and in-depth interview, Sheriff Tompkins spoke about everything from his work prior to becoming sheriff; some of the internal and external programs and services offered by his office, updates about “Mass and Cass,” his plans for the future, and much more.

Speaking about some of the many educational and rehabilitative programs that the sheriff’s office makes available to help the men and women who are remanded to the Suffolk County Jail and Suffolk County House of Correction by the courts, Sheriff Tompkins said, “We are caring for people who are at what is likely their lowest point in their lives with them being in our facilities. We are trying to help our population to improve their station in life with our programming and services so that they can return to society better able to care for themselves and their families.”

Among those programs discussed were: the P.E.A.C.E. Program, a specially-calibrated curriculum that is administered in a unit comprised of men aged eighteen to twenty-five that focuses on impulse control and developing maturity in decision making; Family Matters, a voluntary program under the Division of Reintegration Services at the Suffolk County House of Correction that assists inmates and their families with working towards positive relationships that strengthen the family unit, reunify inmates with their children while incarcerated, and connect families to support services where needed; and others.

Sheriff Tompkins explained that the vast majority of people in custody suffer from either addiction or mental illness, and often, a combination of both.

“Approximately seventy to seventy-five percent of the men and women in our population are struggling with substance use issues,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “About thirty percent have some form of mental illness. A lot of these people shouldn’t be in my facilities, but because of the scarcity of recovery beds and mental health services in the community, they end up incarcerated, where they don’t belong.”

Rounding out the interview, Jimmy asked Sheriff Tompkins about his future goals for the sheriff’s office, his work with members of the Massachusetts Legislature, and about the current status of the encampment that had formed in the streets around the House of Correction and throughout the Newmarket Square area, in addition to several other topics.

You can watch the full interview by visiting:  
<https://fb.watch/aZquzRxmbD>.

#javawithJimmy was created in response to the COVID stay home order announced March 24, of 2020 as an informational platform to keep residents informed. Since then, it’s become a platform for everyday people, artists and politicians to actively engage.







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Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



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