



COMMON GROUND

JUNE 2022 ISSUE

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION



SHERIFF TOMPKINS VISITS BOSTON RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL, PG.7



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2022

Greetings,

In this month's newsletter, we feature a look at one of our newest programs, launched in collaboration with Community Work Services, which teaches participants a number of new employable skills in commercial cleaning and building maintenance. We also profile our Director of Reintegration, David Mayo, under whose division this and several other important programs are offered to the men and women in our care and custody.

We also feature a warning from our organization and the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association in conjunction with the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, the Department of Correction, and Prisoners' Legal Services about a scam targeting the families of incarcerated individuals. Finally, we take a trip Around Suffolk County to highlight my participation in Roxbury Community College's commencement; my visit to the Boston Renaissance Charter School; and my participation in a series of events held to mark Haitian Heritage Month.

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
 ABIEZER AYUSO - SPECIAL SHERIFF
 PETER VANDELFT - EDITOR
 CLAIRE LEBLANC - EDITOR
 DAVID HILL - PHOTOGRAPHER
 VONEL LAMOUR - DESIGNER

SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS
 OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
 PHONE .617-704-6688
 VISIT US ONLINE
 WWW.SCSDMA.ORG

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SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW PROGRAM WITH COMMUNITY WORK SERVICES

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and Community Work Services joined forces to offer a new program. Read about it and the graduation of the first class of participants.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, MSA JOIN AG'S OFFICE, OTHER AGENCIES TO WARN OF SCAM

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association joined with the Attorney General of Massachusetts, the Department of Correction and Prisoners' Legal Services to warn residents of Suffolk County with incarcerated family members of a scam targeting them.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE: DAVID MAYO, DIRECTOR OF INTEGRATION

SCSD Director of Integration David Mayo talks about some of the work that he does for the Department and about some of the programming that is offered through his division.

SCSD MEMORIAL TO THE PASSING OF THREE FORMER OFFICERS

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department mourns the loss of three former Suffolk County Jail officers.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

In this month's trip Around Suffolk County, we feature Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins at the Roxbury Community College commencement; his visit to the Boston Renaissance Charter School in Hyde Park; and his participation in several of the Haitian Heritage Month festivities

SHERIFF TOMPKINS, MSA JOIN WITH AG'S OFFICE TO ISSUE WARNING ABOUT SCAMS TARGETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) partnered with Attorney General Maura Healey, the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC), and Prisoners' Legal Services (PLS) to advise residents with incarcerated loved ones to be wary of scams that offer to make or improve connections between those in correctional facilities and their friends and families for a fee.

These scams target the families and friends of people who are currently in jails, Houses of Correction, and state prisons, offering deceptive or fake services that are often advertised online, over social media, and in print media. In some cases, scammers purportedly offer supplemental calling plans, including false promises of "unlimited minutes," to connect with incarcerated people. However, Massachusetts does not currently offer unlimited calling plans in any jail, House of Correction, or prison. Ultimately, these scams fail to provide promised services, even after taking hundreds of dollars from consumers.

"Scammers will use any opportunity to seek financial gain, including taking advantage of family and friends looking to connect with their incarcerated loved ones," said AG Healey. "We are working with community advocates and our partners in law enforcement to ensure our residents know how to protect themselves from fraud and deceptive services and that they can report any instances of these scams to my office. It is important that incarcerated individuals are able to connect with the people closest to them without their loved ones becoming victims of fraud."

"The Sheriffs stand united that one of our highest priorities is keeping incarcerated individuals connected to family members, friends and outside support systems," said Suffolk County Sheriff and MSA President Steven W. Tompkins. "We want to warn citizens that these are most definitely scams and urge them to take the proper precautions. Taking advantage of people who are already dealing with the stress and emotional toll of having a loved one who is incarcerated is especially repugnant. Protecting our incarcerated individuals and their families from those who would prey on them must remain a top priority."

"The Department of Correction recognizes the importance of connected relationships of family and friends with their loved ones in our custody," said the Department of Correction's Commissioner Carol Mici. "This collaboration with the Attorney General's office will

help to ensure this connection continues while thwarting opportunities for fraud."

"It is too often the case that families who are already financially burdened and disproportionately people of color are also preyed upon by people seeking to take advantage of the painful experience of being separated from a loved one who is incarcerated," said Prisoners' Legal Services Executive Director Elizabeth Matos. "We appreciate the Attorney General's efforts to ensure that families and communities are not being scammed in this way."

The AG's Office, DOC, PLS, and MSA are encouraging residents to take the following steps to protect themselves from fraud and targeted scams:

- Be cautious before posting about incarcerated loved ones on social media, as scammers may try scanning social media activity looking for targets;
- Before signing up for a service, check the business' website to make sure they offer reputable and legitimate services, and see if they have negative reviews;
- Confirm that you can contact the business/organization via phone, email, live chat, or through their website;
- Look out for all fees that will apply and check the business' refund policy;
- Avoid offers that come from social media and, in particular, from questionable businesses or organizations that operate solely on Facebook or other social media websites;
- Avoid unsolicited offers from sources you don't trust or know, including texts and phone calls unless you can confirm that the product or service is legitimate;
- If you decide to make a purchase, pay with a credit card, PayPal or other method that offers purchase protections

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has taken recent action against these scams, stopping the operators of a scheme that preyed on families and friends of incarcerated individuals who rely on phone calls to stay in touch with their incarcerated loved ones—particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic when in-person visitations were suspended. A settlement was also reached by the FTC and the Florida Attorney General's Office with a company that scammed prisoners and their families by charging them for magazine subscriptions that either showed up late or not at all.

Any consumers who feel they may have been scammed by these deceptive practices are encouraged to file a complaint online with the Attorney General's Office.



DEPARTMENT JOINS WITH COMMUNITY WORK SERVICES TO TRAIN PARTICIPANTS FOR COMMERCIAL CLEANING, BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORK



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently celebrated the graduation of participants in a new program launched in collaboration with Community Work Services.

Community Work Services (CWS) was founded more than 140 years ago by Annie Adams Fields in an effort to improve the lives of people living in poverty. For the past several years now, CWS has been an active community partner with the Department, helping people with barriers to employment – like those with a past history of incarceration or in possession of a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) history – to not only overcome these obstacles, but to excel in sustainable jobs with livable wages.

Now, with a deepening of the collaboration between the two agencies, a program training participants in Building Maintenance and Commercial Cleaning was formed to build upon the other innovative job training offered to help improve job readiness, teach commercial production skills, culinary arts skills, and more.

Addressing the participants of the program, Program Coordinator at CWS Timothy Muise offered his thanks and encouragement to the graduates.

"I saw what happened from the beginning of the class to the end of the class, and you guys have really transformed," said Muise. "This Building Maintenance and Commercial Cleaning Program was first envisioned because we saw people getting lost in the gaps when they came out. I know that [the Department] tries their best to provide reentry services, but when the men and women leave here and hit the bricks, they have choices, and a lot of them won't take you in a positive direction."

"But, I believe that every man in this program will succeed, because each and every one of you has the requisite skillset to succeed," Muise continued. "I feel blessed to come into this facility and do this for these men of honor, dignity and respect. That's how you conducted yourselves in this program. I am so proud of this graduating class."



Echoing the sentiments of his fellow CWS co-worker, Business Engagement Manager Gregg Caplitz stated that, "When Tim and I were talking about the creation of this program, what we envisioned was a program where people would start their training behind the wall and would then be able to come out and be integrated into work. You guys are going to be proof that the program works. You could have been sitting staring at the TV or playing cards all day long. But, you chose to come and better yourself and for that you are to be congratulated."

Also offering congratulations to the graduates was Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Director of Reintegration David Mayo, who exhorted the men to practice persistence in their pursuit of success upon release.

"The Bible says that a righteous man falls seven times," said Director Mayo. "To pursue righteousness, you have to make the decision that even when you make a mistake and do something wrong, that you're going to have to get up, dust yourself off and get back to pursuing your righteousness. As you begin your journey, I congratulate you for all of the things that you've accomplished and I challenge you to pursue righteousness with all of your might."

For more information about Community Work Services, visit: www.cwsnewengland.org.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE: DAVID MAYO, DIRECTOR OF REINTEGRATION



David Mayo was drawn to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department by his desire to affect change in the lives of incarcerated individuals. After spending five years as a Youthful Offender Parole Officer for the South Carolina Department of Corrections Parole and Reentry Services, he began his role as Director for Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in October of 2019.

When asked to explain the day to day responsibilities in Mayo's current position, he stated, "My duties are to assist, inspire and challenge my reintegration team to support, empower, and provide resources to our returning citizens and their families so that they never recidivate or darken the doors of any institution again."

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department offers comprehensive

reintegration assistance to our returning citizens, including the following re-entry programs and services both on-site and in partnership with community-based organizations: Reintegration Team Discharge Planning, Workforce Development, and Family Matters programming. These programs provide support services, offer vocational training, and stabilize employment and housing opportunities for returning citizens.

"Working in Corrections is different than any other position as it is the only profession that historically is destructive by intention... Most inmates are expected to fail and not given the opportunity to succeed, which is why the Department, reintegration team, and myself work so hard to encourage and empower the population to seize every opportunity for success."

"I am extremely passionate about destroying the lies and the abuse that has been planted in the lives of the young men that come through the doors of our facility. I enjoy challenging them to reclaim, refocus and redirect their lives and to be productive with their families." He continued, "Change is happening. Men are becoming better. Fathers are chasing their sons to build relationships, and individuals are leaving this institution with education, skills, and hope."

Since 2015, the Family Matters and Reintegration Program has been a volunteer program offered to sentenced

inmates at the Suffolk County House of Corrections. The program's goals are to connect inmates and their families to support and services within the community while their loved ones serve their sentences. The likelihood of recidivism or re-offense among a graduate of the family matters program is 7%, compared to a national rate of 64% and a Massachusetts statewide rate of 33%.

The success of the Family Matters Program and Reintegration Services has not gone unnoticed. The team is working towards expanding resources available to the female population by initiating a Family Matters Women's Program, in partnership with the Family Nurturing Center, which will focus on providing incarcerated women with vocational training courses that will lead to employment opportunities. By continuing to add programs and build partnerships with community-based organizations, Director Mayo hopes an individual's time here will forever change their life path.



DEPARTMENT MOURNS RECENT PASSING OF THREE FORMER OFFICERS



OFFICER ERIC BURTON



**OFFICER DAVID "SCARBY"
SCARBOROUGH**



SERGEANT PATRICK JOYCE

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is mourning the loss of three former officers who passed away over the course of the past few months.

In March of this year, the Department lost Officer Eric Burton. Officer Burton had served within the Department from September of 1989 until June of 2021, working at the Suffolk County Jail.

Not long after, the Department lost Officer David "Scarby" Scarborough in April. Scarborough had also worked at the Jail, serving from December of 1989 until January of 2020.

Then, in May, the Department lost Sergeant Pat Joyce who had worked at the Department in the Suffolk County Jail from October of 1993 until April of this year.

Each of these men left an indelible impression upon their fellow co-workers, both for their professionalism, dedication and selflessness in the position and for the warmth and generosity that each exhibited as people.

Officer Burton, Officer Scarborough and Sergeant Joyce...you will forever be part of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department family and legacy, and you will be missed immeasurably by all who had the good fortune of knowing you.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SHERIFF TOMPKINS TAKES PART IN HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATIONS

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins recently took part in several celebrations held to mark Haitian Heritage Month. Sheriff Tompkins joined fellow presenters Ruthzee Louijeune, Boston City Councilor At-Large; Frederica Williams, President and CEO of Whittier Street Health Center; Natacha Clerger, Randolph Town Councilor-At-Large; Marjorie Berneadeau-Alexandre of H.A.U. (Haitian-Americans United, Inc.), Inc.; health center staff members; and entertainers for the Whittier Street Health Center's Haitian Heritage Month Celebration. Sheriff Tompkins also walked with members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in the Haitian Unity Parade and joined Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria, State Senator Sal DiDomenico, State Representative Joseph McGonagle, Reverend Myrlande DesRosiers and the Everett Haitian Community Center, and members of the Haitian community in and around Everett for the 6th Annual Haitian-American Heritage Month Flag Raising at Everett City Hall.

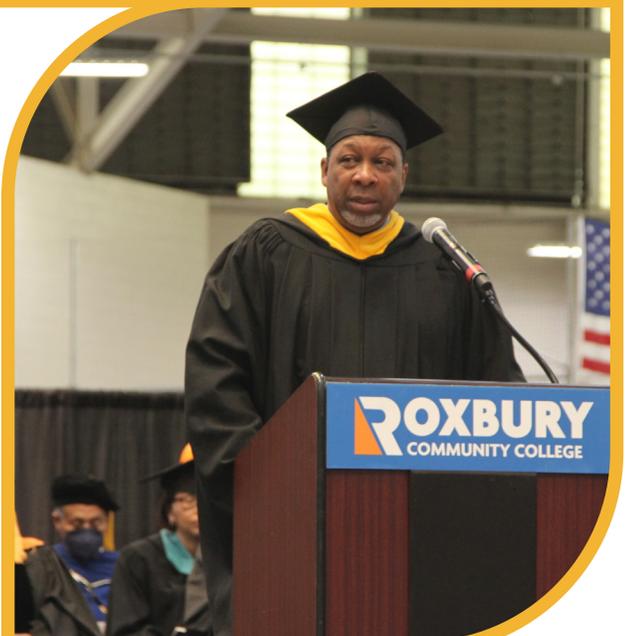


SHERIFF TOMPKINS VISITS RENAISSANCE CHARTER SCHOOL

Sheriff Tompkins recently visited the Boston Renaissance Charter School in Hyde Park to speak with members of the 6th Grade Student Council. Students posed questions to Sheriff Tompkins about his work as the Sheriff of Suffolk County and asked about some of the challenges inherent in the job, in addition to his motivation in seeking the office.

SHERIFF TOMPKINS JOINS RCC FOR COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard joined Interim President of Roxbury Community College Jackie Jenkins-Scott to help usher in the 46th Annual Commencement for RCC. Fulfilling his role as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Sheriff Tompkins addressed the graduates as one of several inspiring speakers of the day, including Shadia Singo, who gave the Student Address, and Community Service Award recipients State Representative Liz Malia and Boston City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson. Giving the keynote address was Co-Founder and President at Granite Telecommunications and Co-owner and Director of the Boston Celtics Rob Hale. Mr. Hale surprised the Class of 2022 with a gift of \$1,000 to each graduate - \$500 for them to use on themselves and \$500 to give to someone else in need before the graduates "turned their tassels."





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

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www.scsdma.org/careers

 617-704-6363

 recruitment@scsdma.org