



COMMON GROUND

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE

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2022

SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER, 2022

Greetings,

This special issue of the Common Ground Newsletter is dedicated to coverage of the recently concluded 2022 Summer Enrichment Program class.

When I created this program in 2014, it was envisioned as both a paid internship for young people with an interest in learning more about careers in law enforcement and criminal justice, and as a means of promoting positive relationships between youths and uniformed officers, with the additional intention of providing an opportunity for juniors and seniors from around Suffolk County to network with professionals from their chosen field of interest. This year marks the eighth Summer Enrichment Program class.



This year, we introduced our Summer Enrichment Program Essay Contest, which awards the top three essay writers, chosen from the pool of participants in the Summer Enrichment Program, based on their reflections about their time, experience and learning with the Department. The goal was to promote student engagement and reflection, while fostering an environment for creativity.

Finally, in our "Around Suffolk County" feature, we showcase Department staff members who attended Boston Children's Rec Fest; the continuation of training education for best practices by our SCSD Director of Training; our participation in this year's Dominican Parade; and the Department's donation of produce to a local organization to assist them with reducing food insecurity within our county.

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

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SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM CONCLUDES 8TH SEASON

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently concluded its eighth year of the Summer Enrichment Program, our summer internship program for teens interested in a career in law enforcement.



SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM ESSAY WINNERS

Read essays submitted by our Summer Enrichment Interns as they reflect on their experience this summer and the intricacy of the criminal justice system.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

In this month's trip Around Suffolk County, we feature Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins at the Dominican Parade; Department representatives who attended "Rec Fest;" the ongoing training of our staff; and the SCSD's donation to assist in community efforts to reduce food insecurity.

SEP CLASS PHOTOS AND QUOTES:



Alanie Alexandre

“Your situation doesn’t determine your happiness, the Corinthians chapter in The Bible was made in prison. So not every storm in your life is made to destroy you, maybe it’s to clear the path for you.”



Christian Anzueto

“Once you know what failure feels like, determination chases success.”

- Kobe Bryant



Nolan Conroy

“Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal.”

- Thomas Jefferson



Camryn Daniel

“Today is a gift, that’s why it’s called the present.”



Wilson Mercado

“Don’t waste your life chasing after meaningless things, because it’s not towards the end of your life that you regret everything you’ve done.”



Sam Page

“Starting is the most difficult point in a journey, unless you don’t do anything about it, you’re not going to do anything.”



Giuseppi Ricciadri

“If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you.”



Ilda Sanchez Herrera

“Don’t leave what you can do today for tomorrow.”



Kayla Torres

“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.”



Chris Poma

“The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.”

-Michael Altshuler

2022 SEP PARTICIPANTS IMPRESS IN INAUGURAL ESSAY CONTEST

This year, the Summer Enrichment Students wrote 500 to 750 words reflecting on their time and experience within the program. Students were given the following prompts: describe a “Day in the Life of a Summer Enrichment Intern”; “Discuss your change in mindset about the criminal justice system following your completion of the program”; “Explain how you would change or improve the current legal system”; “Articulate the complexity of law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system”; or “Describe the ways that law enforcement affect communities.”

Members of the Communications External Affairs team met to discuss the submissions, selecting three papers that best answered the given prompts, and awarded the following students for their essays: Ilda Sanchez was awarded first place for her detailed description of the perceptions of law enforcement agencies before and after the program; Nolan Conroy won second place as he captured the complexity of the criminal justice system and law enforcement agencies, as well as the impact these departments have on the safety and security of communities; and Camryn Daniel who was recognized for the well-written and researched article that described the different branches of the criminal justice system and the shift in opportunities available for those detained. Below are excerpts from the student’s submissions.



FIRST PLACE: ILDA SANCHEZ

My Hispanic background influenced the way I perceived law enforcement and the criminal justice system. My parents always told me to stay away from police officers as much as possible which made me think that law enforcement people were bad people. Because I was told this by my family, I was on edge when I saw a police officer in my neighborhood or anywhere where I was present. Not only did my family have an influence on my thoughts and opinions about the system, but social media also had a big impact on my views. Social media is such a big part of many people’s lives now and it shifted a lot of people’s thoughts on the criminal justice system, especially following the events of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other victims of police brutality. With the help of social media, a lot of people became

aware of what needed to be changed in the justice system. I was one of those people that wanted change in the system and became curious about a career in law enforcement.

Joining the summer enrichment program, I came in with the mindset that the people that I would be working with would be very intimidating and overflowing with authority, but I learned that that was not the case. Respect is such a big word in law enforcement; in fact, with all the places that we visited the word “respect” kept popping up and everyone was very serious about it. During a tour of the jail, I heard from officers how they deal with the detainees. Similar to everyone else, I based my thoughts and opinions on what I’ve seen in movies and on social media. I thought correction officers were going to be rude and disrespectful towards the inmates but that was not the case. All that the correction officers want to do is help the detainees. Some detainees were caught in hanging around with the wrong people or being at the wrong place at the wrong time. Those detained are regular human beings just like everybody else, and I think a lot of people forget once they hear that they are being held in jail. Everybody jumps to conclusions quickly when they hear the word jail. During the tour, we also got introduced to two detainees, and in hearing their experience, I can tell that the officers were not making it up when they said respect is a big word. Inmates and correctional officers have to work together to keep everybody safe, and respect plays a big part in that.

This program has taught me that working in law enforcement will require a lot of responsibility and respect. It doesn’t matter if you are the one with the badge; you still have to carry out your job with respect, and not only will that make your life easier, it will also show the people that you care about what you do. So my perception of law enforcement and the criminal justice system did change during the program because I got to see in-depth how dangerous and rewarding a job in law enforcement can be. I do still believe that there is a lot of wrong stuff going on in the criminal justice system, but I believe that those wrongs can be fixed with people that are willing to advocate and fight for the change.



SECOND PLACE: NOLAN CONROY

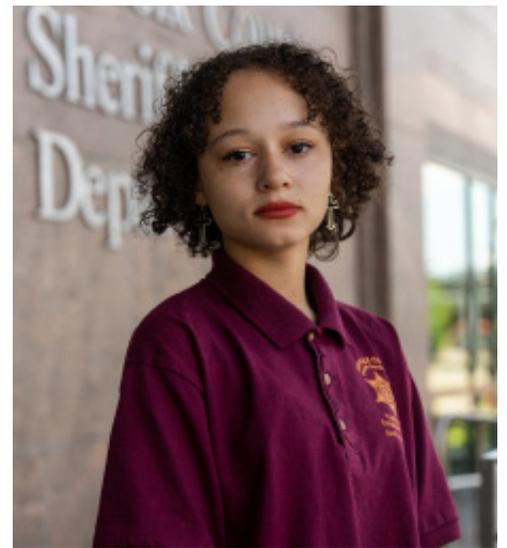
Law enforcement is much more intricate than it seems. While it's easier to just generalize law enforcement as being solely composed of police officers that would be far from reality. Before this experience, I had not realized the complexity of law enforcement careers and the greater systems at play. I hadn't realized what truly happens to people who break the law.

The chain of law enforcement interactions does begin with police officers. The primary objective of police officers is to protect and serve their communities. They are very engaged with the public, especially in recent years when the relationship has been rocky. As times have changed, their duties and responsibilities have not. They risk their lives every day, whether it is something as basic as a traffic stop or hopping into a helicopter to locate a missing elderly woman.

Law enforcement is not just police officers patrolling the streets. It involves all aspects of the criminal justice system. Prosecutors, public defenders, judges, police, and correction officers all serve the criminal justice network. They provide security to all citizens by ensuring justice is carried out fairly. Americans are protected from cruel and unusual punishments that may be applied by this system, which helps to prevent flaws and corruption among law enforcement officials. For the most part, individuals in law enforcement have a desire to protect and serve their communities to the best of their ability. They are just regular community members trying to help improve their neighborhood, city, state, and country. Whether that is pursuing a job in policing, corrections, or law – this summer taught me each career path is necessary to make a difference in the criminal legal system.

THIRD PLACE: CAMRYN DANIEL

Inmates in the criminal justice system used to serve their time without any way of improving themselves and rehabilitation. Now that the times are changing, inmates have programs that can help guide them to a better lifestyle such as family counseling, religious programs, educational programs to help them finish school, and many more. Now inmates can be steered in the right direction with the help of the staff and officers. But inmates can still be affected negatively by the prison system and so can their families. Children of inmates can be deprived of their parent's love and care, causing mental problems in their future. Spouses of inmates may feel the stress of having to raise children alone while providing for their spouses in prison. Parents of inmates also have to cope with the guilt of knowing their child went down the 'wrong path' and can only hope their child tries to make better decisions in the future. Inmates also have to deal with the trauma of gang violence as well as normal violence. There are also inmates in prison that shouldn't be in prison but need to be hospitalized for mental illness. Incarceration affects many people, even beyond the inmates. I hope soon the criminal justice system will better the treatment of inmates and their families.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY



SCSD PITCHES IN FOR "REC FEST"

Representatives from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department attended Boston Children's Rec Fest on August 16th in Franklin Park. The Department handed out Safety Tips for Kids coloring books, crayons, and Junior Deputy Badges.

ADS MOJICA ATTENDS FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER (FLET) USE OF FORCE INSTRUCTOR PROGRAM (UOFITP)

Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) and Director of Training Jose Mojica attended an eighty hour training program held at the Municipal Police Training Committee Academy in Lynnfield, MA. The Use of Force Instructor Program (UOFITP) is designed to give the student the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully design, develop and implement Use of Force training using static, dynamic, and interactive training principles. The UOFITP is for law enforcement professionals who train officers or agents in the principles of Use of Force, develop or revise Use of Force policy, and are responsible for review and evaluation of agency Use of Force incidents. The UOFITP utilizes adult learning principles as well as problem-based training, role-play, lecture and demonstrations to give the student the skills they need to be successful developing and teaching their own training programs related to Use of Force. The program covered topics including use of force; the legal aspects of use of force; officer liability; designing, developing, and evaluating labs and practical exercises; and the instructional use of non-lethal training ammunition.



"It was a challenging program, however, a great sense of accomplishment when it was completed," said ADS Mojica. "I'm looking forward to applying some of the lessons learned to our curriculum and enhancing our knowledge as a department on the topic of Use of Force."



SHERIFF TOMPKINS, SCSD MARCHES IN DOMINICAN PARADE

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department joined revelers celebrating and participating in the Dominican Parade earlier this month.

SCSD MAKES DONATION TO NEWHEALTH'S FOOD INSECURITY PROGRAM

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently delivered fruits and vegetables harvested through the Urban Farming Program at the Suffolk County House of Correction to NEWHealth's Food Insecurity Program Community Fridge located in Charlestown.

NEWHealth began the food insecurity program in 2016 after determining that access to fresh, affordable, and quality food was difficult for patients and community members in the North End and Charlestown neighborhoods. In an effort to reduce food insecurity, the Community Fridge opened to the public in 2021. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department was honored to participate in furthering NEWHealth's mission and looks forward to additional opportunities to reduce food insecurity within our community.





SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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