



# COMMON GROUND

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## THE HONOR GUARD

PROUDLY SERVING THE DEPARTMENT INTERNALLY & THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH



## BUILDING PATHS TO EMPLOYMENT

SCSD WELCOMES BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR ANDREA CAMPBELL AT HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR WOMEN'S PATHS TO EMPLOYMENT EVENT

## CORRECTION OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

ONE OF OUR OWN SCSD CORRECTION OFFICERS RECOGNIZED DURING AWARDS CEREMONY



# Sheriff's Statement

In this issue of the *Common Ground*, we cast the spotlight on the officers who make up one of our special teams known as the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.

Along with their duties and responsibilities for the care and custody of inmates and detainees at the House of Correction and the Nashua Street Jail, this group of officers is trained and deployed to properly and professionally present the Colors of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, representing Suffolk County at national and local memorials, city and state funerals, special ceremonies, sporting contests, and other public events. These officers take exceptional pride in representing the Commonwealth and county, often participating in the Honor Guard on days off or off shift, and the Department is proud of their service and dedication.

**Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

## Sheriff Tompkins celebrated as one of El Planeta Newspaper's "Powermeter 100"

**S**uffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was recognized as one of El Planeta Newspaper's Powermeter 100 during their annual event held to recognize the 100 most influential people for the Latino community of Massachusetts. Celebrating its 12th year, the event featured musical performances, dancing and formal presentations, all taking place within the spacious Artists for Humanity Epicenter in South Boston. Among the notable people on the Powermeter list were: Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General for the State of Massachusetts Maura Healey, U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz, Massachusetts State Representative Adrian Madaro, Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson, Executive Director of Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion (IBA) Vanessa Calderon-Rosado, East Boston Neighborhood Health Center CEO Manuel Lopes and many others.



*Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins with State Representative Adrian Madaro (2nd from left) and his fiancée Ariel Glantz (far left) and East Boston Neighborhood Health Center CEO Manuel Lopes (far right) and wife Lee (2nd from right).*



*Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins with LULAC National Vice President of the Northeast Juan Lopez*



# Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell joins Sheriff Tompkins at House of Correction for Women's "Paths to Employment" Event



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell to the Suffolk County House of Correction to speak at the Fourth Annual "Paths to Employment" Program.

Part of the Department's Women's Program Services, Paths to Employment is a mock interview fair held in collaboration with Project Place, a Department reentry partner and leading social service agency in Boston, and an impressive array of participating local employers.

Designed for women who have successfully completed required stages of their individual service plans (ISP) and Women's Programming, Paths to Employment consists of a five-week job readiness training that is administered with a gender-specific, trauma-informed and individualized reintegration focus.

Speaking to the participants of the program and the assembled employers, Sheriff Tompkins detailed the significance of the program stating, "This marks the 12th successful partnership year with Project Place. We are very proud of our C.R.E.W. (Community Re-Entry for Women) Program, and these mock interviews are highly important, not only to the women here today, but to the facility and what we do here as a whole. What we always ask is, 'how do you want people to return to their communities? The same as when they showed up, worse or better?' Our contention is that if we have the ability to improve the station of the people in our care and custody, then it is incumbent upon us to do so."

As part of a greater plan to reduce recidivism, women are prepared prior to release with job readiness and life skills instruction.

In this year's cycle, sixteen female inmates nearing release volunteered for an intensive preparation course, which concluded with the Paths to Employment event. Partnering with Project Place, the Department offered courses in resume writing, job training, and interviewing skills, which the participants put into practice by sitting with the visiting employers and vendors for the mock-interview sessions and follow-up feedback.

These participating "C.O.R.I.-friendly" employers were matched with the interests of each individual woman in the program for interviews. Participants completed fifteen-minute mock interviews followed by ten minutes of feedback with at least two different employers. Throughout the course of the program and into the feedback portion of the event, interviewees expressed increased confidence and acknowledged their professional improvement.



Speaking directly to the women in the program, Councilor Campbell said, "I'm so happy to be here with the Sheriff and with Project Place, because what we're doing here represents a new beginning. I pledge to you my help when you complete your respective sentences. Take these experiences and use them to fuel yourself to find your purpose."

For more information about Women's Programming at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, visit: [www.scsdma.org](http://www.scsdma.org).



# Sgt. Danny Salas

## Employee Profile

**S**ergeant Daniel Salas currently serves at the Nashua Street Jail and as a member of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard. A 23-year veteran, Sgt. Salas approaches his day-to-day job with great enthusiasm and appreciation.

"When I first applied and later joined the Department, I was at a crossroads in my life," said Sgt. Salas. "Today, I'm halfway through my 23rd year, and I really enjoy coming to work and seeing everyone here," said Sgt. Salas. "I've been really fortunate to have met some of the best people while working here."

During a regular shift, Sgt. Salas works in the Booking area, supervising two units.

"I tend to the day-to-day needs, answering any questions officers, non-custody staff or detainees may have, and I also work with everyone to ensure that things are always in control."

In addition to his regular duties and responsibilities, Sgt. Salas is also a member of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard, a group comprised of SCSD officers who attend public events in Suffolk County throughout the year, representing the Department and presenting the Colors.

Speaking about his initial entrance onto the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard, Sgt. Salas recalled first being approached to join in 1996. Completing an exhaustive selection process and training with the Department's Training Division, Sgt. Salas – alongside his fellow Honor Guard members – sharpened and solidified his execution of the assigned commands and techniques.

This vigorous training is reflected in the performance of the Honor Guard, whether marching in parades or other community events.

"Being a member of the SCSD Honor Guard is a team effort because it requires constant communication and synchronization," said Sgt. Salas. "Things are constantly changing and every venue and event is different, so we have to communicate and plan to ensure that things go smoothly."

Reflecting on his experiences, Sgt. Salas offered some positive words to share with incoming Department custody and non-custody staff members.

"If you come in every day and do your job, there will be opportunities that will come," said Sgt. Salas. "They might not necessarily happen as quickly as you'd like them to, but they will happen. Stay positive. No matter what, always stay positive, and good things will happen."





# The SCSO Honor Guard



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard is comprised of 20 sworn full-time Suffolk County Sheriff's Department officers who represent the Sheriff's Department with a high degree of honor, dignity and professionalism. Members of the Honor Guard are commonly seen in their high-collar black and royal blue uniforms with silver colored Suffolk County Sheriff's Department collar pins, two royal blue stripes on their pants, royal blue cords resting on their shoulders, a patent leather belt, a distinct patch on each members' upper left arm including the United States and Massachusetts State flag, and their on-duty service weapons or flags in hand.



The Honor Guard is recognized as the Department's official ceremonial unit in which provides professional services for funerals, parades, various ceremonies and official state and county functions. Members of the Honor Guard also perform routine duties such as traditional officer functions, but also coordinate and perform in parades, memorial observances and special events that the Department participates in.



# DEPARTMENT OFFICER CELEBRATED AS “CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR” AT 19TH ANNUAL CEREMONY

**P**resided over by Secretary of Public Safety and Security Daniel Bennett, this ceremony was created to recognize and celebrate the notable and often heroic actions taken by those working in the field of corrections.

Each year, the state’s 14 sheriffs and the Massachusetts Department of Correction nominate exemplary employees for these prestigious awards. A selection committee comprised of leaders from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, the Massachusetts Sheriffs’ Association, the Massachusetts Correctional Officer Federated Union and designees from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate determine which employees will be honored.



Presented with a Letter of Commendation, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department Correction Officer John Creamer was honored for his life-saving efforts after identifying and assisting a man in cardiac arrest. While patronizing a CVS Pharmacy store this past fall in Haverhill, Officer Creamer observed an employee who had become unresponsive and in need of both CPR and defibrillation.

Rushing over to administer compressions and employing a defibrillator as emergency services arrived to provide assistance, Officer Creamer’s quick thinking and actions likely saved the life of the young clerk.



Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins offered his congratulations to Officer Creamer and to all of the correction officers and employees who were recognized for going above and beyond their prescribed duties following the ceremony at the Massachusetts State House.

“Our officers, along with their counterparts across the Commonwealth, perform heroic and life-saving actions as part of their day-to-day duties and responsibilities both inside of our institutions and outside of them,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “On numerous occasions, these officers have performed these actions as brave and selfless civilians, often without recognition or celebration – in fact, many of them acting while shunning the spotlight. But, Officer Creamer and the others honored today deserve this recognition that we so proudly bestow upon them. Congratulations to all of this year’s recipients.”





# D.A.S.H. IN EAST BOSTON

**T**he Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently brought D.A.S.H. (Defensive Aids in Situations of Help) to the East Boston Community Health Center.

The program, which was created as a part of the Department's public safety initiative, aims to provide women with a greater sense of confidence and security through basic physical self-defense training and instruction.

The three-hour training was led by members of the Department's Training Division, including: Sergeant Karen Doria, Sergeant Traci Stewart, Deputy Keith Storlazzi, and Deputy Dave Thompson. Throughout the scenario-based training, participants were instructed about how to deal with situations, ranging

from kidnapping to sexual assault.

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins spoke about the impact that D.A.S.H. is having in the community and encouraged participants to share their experiences with others who might benefit from the program.

"This program is providing a service that is greatly needed in our community and I'm pleased that we are able to offer it," said Sheriff Tompkins. "We've received great feedback from the women that have participated in it and we look forward to expanding our reach so that we can help as many women as possible. Please tell your family and friends about this program. We all want our daughters, mothers, sisters, and wives to be and feel safe."

For more information about the D.A.S.H. program, or to inquire about future sessions, please contact Coordinator of Community Outreach and Youth Programs Nadia Lovinsky at (617) 704-6656 or [nlovinsky@scsdma.org](mailto:nlovinsky@scsdma.org)



## SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS DEPARTMENT CELEBRATE HAITIAN HERITAGE MONTH



**D**uring the month of May, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Department celebrated Haitian Heritage Month, which is celebrated annually across the globe to commemorate the contributions and achievements of Haitians and Haitian-Americans.

The Department attended numerous events in celebration, which included: the Boston Public Schools Event for Haitian Heritage Month, the 9th Annual Haitian Heritage Month Kick-Off Ceremony at Key Pam in Dorchester, the 11th Annual Flag Day Breakfast at Boston City Hall and 21st Annual Haitian Flag Raising Ceremony, the 16th Annual Haitian American Unity Parade, and the 11th Annual Heritage Month Celebration at the Massachusetts State House.





## COMMON GROUND *NEWSLETTER*

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