



# COMMON GROUND

MARCH 2018 ISSUE

MEET PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
**KARLA WALKER**  
OF THE SCSD FAMILY MATTERS PROGRAM



THE SCSD BEGINS NEW  
TRAINING ACADEMY CLASS

INSIDE THE SCSD'S  
FAMILY MATTERS PROGRAM

# Sheriff's Statement



In this issue of the Common Ground newsletter, we take an in-depth and behind-the-scenes look at one of our key community outreach programs – Family Matters.

In my role as the Sheriff of Suffolk County, I see the devastating impact that the lack of resources has on the men and women in our

custody, and how that limited access extends to their families, which are often struggling to make ends meet. To help mitigate these needs, we created the Family Matters program, complete with services that are critical to the health of the family. By facilitating service referrals and community connections, we are able to play a larger role in ensuring that families undergo the reunification process, improve their financial stability, and are equipped with the opportunities necessary to navigate the reentry into society of their loved one.

I often say that the hallmark of any great society is determined by how well we take care of our most compromised members. It is our belief that with the proper resources for a stronger family unit, we will begin breaking the intergenerational cycle of incarceration and recidivism, and, ultimately, contribute to a safer, healthier and more vibrant community overall.

**-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins**

## COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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## The SCSD Begins New Officer Training Academy Class

Join members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in welcoming the current group of officer candidates to our Correction Officer Training Academy.



## Employee Profile: Karla Walker

Meet Karla Walker, the Family Matters Program Director

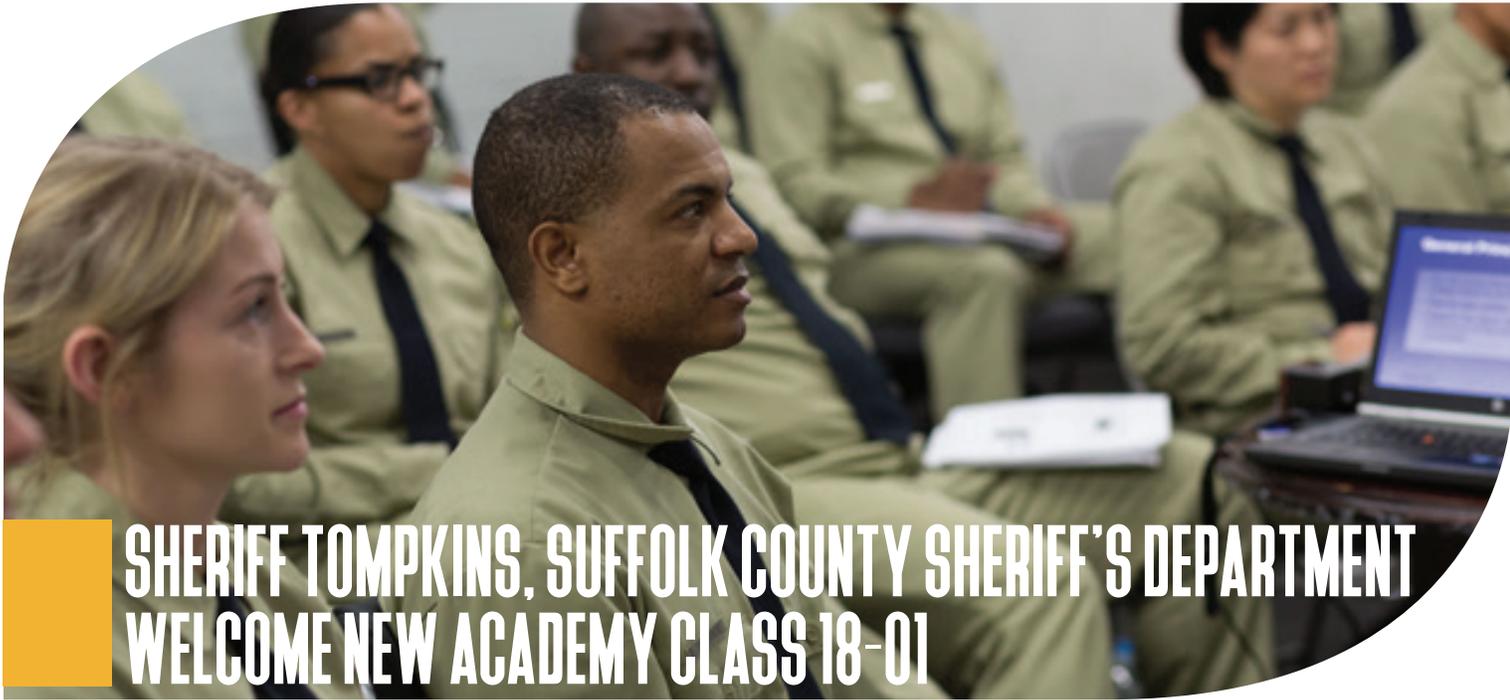
## An Inside Look: Family Matters Program

Read about the Department's Family Matters Program, an initiative designed to strengthen the bonds between inmates and their families through outreach services.



## Summer Enrichment Program Launch

Teens can now apply to our 5th Annual Summer Enrichment Program.



## SHERIFF TOMPKINS, SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WELCOME NEW ACADEMY CLASS 18-01

This month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed Correction Officer recruits for "Day One" of their Correction Officer Training Academy Class 18-01.

During their time in the Academy, the cadets will learn and experience all that is required to serve as officers at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

In their journey to become members of the Department's custody staff, officer candidates will endure a rigorous schedule that will test them physically and mentally as they complete their training.

They will receive instruction in subjects that include ethics and professionalism, suicide prevention, the use of force continuum, firearm safety and handling, inmate education and programming, contraband control, courtroom testimony, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, fire safety, CPR, report writing, evacuation plans, interpersonal communication and more.

Cadets also receive physical training and are schooled in multiple defense tactics. Through this combination of academics, physical training and drills, new recruits will develop teamwork and leadership skills, as well as a variety of basic law enforcement expertise that they will be able to use throughout their time with the Department.

Though the upcoming weeks will not be easy for members of COTA Class 18-01, they will prepare cadets for everything that being a correction officer entails.

On behalf of Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the staff of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, we wish all of the cadets the best of luck and hope to see them at the end of their journey to become officers of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.





# Karla Walker

DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY MATTERS PROGRAM

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE

**D**irector of the Family Matters program, Karla Walker began her service to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in 2016.

Over the last two years, Walker has worked to grow and evolve the breadth of services for those enrolled in the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Family Matter's Program. Initially hired for the purposes of building the Family Matters Program as a referral program for incarcerated individuals and their families, Walker has helped to widen the scope and role of the program to work on family reunification.

"When I came into the Suffolk

County Sheriff's Department, I immediately realized that our primary focus had to be reuniting children with their fathers and rebuilding relationships with family members," said Walker. "Reunifying families was always a priority of this program, but I really saw that it had to come first so that we could rebuild trust between the men we work with and their families."

She describes her time at the Department as "something different every day," but all with a core focus of successfully reunifying currently incarcerated men with their children and families. Walker's daily tasks include fostering relationships with external agencies in order to expand

the variety of services necessary to assist incarcerated individuals. "There is no typical day for me, I would say. There are many dynamics that play out when it comes to the needs of families, so I'm working on making connections with everything from daycare centers, substance abuse resources, to food banks and family therapy services." In reflecting upon her position and role with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Karla Walker said, "If there is one thing we at the Department want the Family Matter's Program to be about, it is to enable people build positive relationships with their families so that they can sustain themselves in a healthier way than they did beforehand."

## AN INSIDE LOOK: THE FAMILY MATTERS PROGRAM



### MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY MATTERS TEAM

Family Matters is a voluntary program under the Division of Re-Integration Services at the Suffolk County House of Correction, which was developed to assist inmates and their families with working toward positive relationships. The issues facing the currently incarcerated upon release are numerous, often confounding, and have a drastic impact on all of the connected relationships. In an effort to assist those in the care and custody of the Department to re-enter society more successfully, the program targets families because of the powerful role that they can play in supporting, guiding and inspiring the currently incarcerated upon their release.

Launched in 2015 by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, the program started with an event in which service providers across Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere came together to discuss how to better forge relationships with community-based partners. Since its inception, the Family Matters Program has evolved from its earlier role as an entity that primarily focused on providing referrals. The program now focuses on connecting families to resources that will help to stabilize the household for the release and return of a formerly incarcerated family member.

“The Suffolk County House of Correction has a lot of programming around workforce development, skill building, re-entry and education,” said Karla Walker, Director of Family Matters. “Our primary focus in the Family Matters program is reuniting children with their fathers and working on rebuilding relationships with family members they may have burned bridges with in the past. On top of all of the other programming that they are

receiving while incarcerated, our program gives them a unique opportunity to learn about themselves in order to better navigate their family relationships.”

Through the building of intentional community partnerships, the Family Matters Program continues to create strong relationships with agencies to deliver services to families before individuals are released. In an effort to build positive rapport, incarcerated individuals at the House of Correction are introduced to a number of community support providers to whom they will later be referred upon their release.

“Thus far, the best thing to come out of this program is information sharing, and assessing what community partners and providers need to know when working with families of the incarcerated,” Walker said. “We have also found it helpful to survey the men themselves to see what their families need and have created meaningful programming that is tailored to their needs as individuals and their family members.”

Partnering organizations have included: the Home for Little Wanderers, Father’s Uplift, the Family Nurturing Center, Boston Medical Center, Whittier Street Health Center, Dorchester Bay Economic Development, Project Place, College Bound Dorchester and others, with plans for additional partnerships. With the support of Family Matters, participants have obtained resources to assist with their utilities, continuing their education, finding a place of employment, representing their child in receiving individualized services in school, and much more.

# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

## **Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins Reads to Students of the Joseph Lee Elementary School**

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined first graders at the Joseph Lee Elementary School as a guest reader of Suffolk County District Attorney Dan Conley's ongoing reading program to promote literacy for young people throughout the county. Reading a book in celebration of Black History Month, Sheriff Tompkins also engaged students in discussions about a host of topics and answered questions about the work that he does as the Sheriff of Suffolk County.



## **Sheriff Tompkins, Suffolk County House of Correction Welcome Law Students from Northeastern University**

Visitors from the Northeastern University School of Law participated in a brief tour of the Suffolk County House of Correction earlier this month. Organized by Reverend Willie Bodrick, II - Assistant Pastor of Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury - and led by Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Assistant Deputy Superintendent Rachelle Steinberg, the tour covered several hubs of activity within the facility including the Education Division, Booking, a women's unit, a segregation unit, the Ricky Dever Medical Unit, and Women's Programming, before concluding with an in-depth question and answer session with ADS Steinberg, who fielded a series of thoughtful questions from the inquisitive group.





# SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT 2018 SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



July 9, 2018 - August 24, 2018

## APPLY NOW

This program will invite twenty participants to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to learn more about careers in law enforcement. Participants will work 21 hours a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8am-4pm beginning July 9, 2018 and will be compensated at a rate of \$11 an hour.

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Summer Enrichment Program targets incoming 11th and 12th graders with the opportunity to intern at Suffolk County Jail, the House of Correction, Chelsea Training Facility and Civil Process.

## REQUIREMENTS

- \* Must be entering either the 11th or 12th grade
- \* Must be resident of Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop or Revere
- \* Interest in Law Enforcement or Criminal Justice
- \* Proper form of Identification (Student ID, Passport, Mass ID or Driver's License)
- \* Active Checking or Savings Account
- \* Updated Physical Form

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018**  
APPLY TODAY: [WWW.SCSDMA.ORG](http://WWW.SCSDMA.ORG)

☎ 617-704-6656  
✉ [NLOVINSKY@SCSDMA.ORG](mailto:NLOVINSKY@SCSDMA.ORG)

🌐 [WWW.SCSDMA.ORG](http://WWW.SCSDMA.ORG)  
📍 200 NASHUA ST, BOSTON, MA 02114



# LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREERS

## WE OFFER:

- Certified law enforcement academy **training**
- Average **\$48k starting** salary
- Generous medical, dental and retirement **benefits**
- College and post graduate **tuition** incentives

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- 21 years of age
- High school diploma
- U.S. citizenship
- Valid driver's license

Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



**Suffolk County**

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

20 Bradston Street, Boston, MA 02118

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE AT:**

Christine Chan - Director of Recruitment

 [www.scsdma.org/careers](http://www.scsdma.org/careers)

 [CChan@scsdma.org](mailto:CChan@scsdma.org)

 617-704-6566