



COMMON GROUND

MARCH 2020 ISSUE



MEET

SANDY ZAMOR CALIXTE

THE DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS



SHERIFF'S STATEMENT

In this issue, we celebrate Women's History Month with a look at just a few of the many dynamic, intelligent and dedicated leaders within the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department who also happen to be women.

Whether it be the management of the safety and security of our facilities (the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail), spearheading the messaging and community outreach programming of the Department, providing education for the men and women remanded to our care and custody, or otherwise working to help us realize our vision of returning people to society better able to care for themselves and their families, the women of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department are true equals and vital to the success of what has traditionally been a male-centric profession.

Other stories include information about our collaboration with Boston College (BC) to produce the Inside-Out Program, which "exposes incarcerated students to educational possibilities that they might not have otherwise considered, and it offers students enrolled at BC an opportunity to get firsthand knowledge about the criminal justice system": our "Partner of the Month" column, featuring Project Place Assistant Director Polly Hanson; the Age Strong Commission's visit to our Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation (PEACE) Unit for 18- to 25-year-olds; and more.

We want to wish everyone a happy Women's History Month and, as always, I hope that you'll enjoy reading about these topics and more in this edition. I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the forms and functions of the Department in the issues to come.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

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PROFILE: SCSD'S CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Read our profile on Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Chief of Communications and External Affairs Sandy Zamor Calixte.



BOSTON COLLEGE'S "INSIDE OUT" COLLABORATES WITH SCSD STUDENTS

Learn about our partnership with Boston College that sheds light on the causes of incarceration, while providing participants with opportunities for college credits.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

On this trip "Around Suffolk County," we feature Jail Superintendent Michael Colwell's participation in an informational session at Endicott College; Get Connected! with Sheriff Tompkins; and welcome the Age Strong Commission to the PEACE Unit at the House of Correction.

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DIRECTIONS FOR CORRECTIONS

A DISCUSSION ABOUT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT



MODERATOR

STEVEN W. TOMPKINS
SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

PANELISTS

THURSDAY
MARCH 19, 2020

6 PM - 8 PM

(DOORS OPEN 5:30PM)



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MAYOR JOSEPH CURTATONE
SOMERVILLE



MAYOR KIM DRISCOLL
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CHIEF ZAMOR CALIXTE

BRINGS DEPARTMENT'S MISSION OF TRANSPARENCY, OUTREACH, AND PUBLIC SAFETY TO SUFFOLK COUNTY



Sandy Zamor Calixte is Chief of the Communications and External Affairs Division for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

The Division of Communications and External Affairs, which combines the efforts of Community Affairs and the Office of Communications, executes its mission by disseminating the Department's message to criminal justice practitioners, the community at large and members of the media. In 2006, Chief Zamor Calixte was hired by the Department as the Coordinator of Community Outreach and Youth Programming, and was later appointed to her current position in 2013 by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins.

"Our job at the Communications and External Affairs Division is to build and foster connections between the Department, the people we serve and

the residents, organizations and agencies of Suffolk County," said Chief Zamor Calixte. "There are a number of different programs that originate from this division that help to increase the transparency of the Department, provide outreach and public safety initiatives to residents, and help to create dialogue between the Department, and the communities of Suffolk County and beyond."

In her role as the Chief of Communications and External Affairs, Zamor Calixte oversees all external programs for the Department including the Choice Program, a Department initiative comprised of a cadre of officers tasked with the mission of visiting schools in Suffolk County to discuss gangs and violence, peer pressure, planning for the future, and making smart choices with students.

Chief Zamor Calixte also oversaw the creation and implementation of the Department's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which is a paid internship program for motivated high school juniors and seniors who are interested in law enforcement and criminal justice careers. SEP enables participants to gain insight and experience into related professions through job shadowing, weekly presentations by members of law enforcement, criminal justice, government and others, through roundtable discussions, related field trips and educational tours. Additionally, Zamor Calixte oversaw the implementation of several other equally successful programs, including: Directions for Corrections, the Department's town hall-style speaker series; Defensive Aids in Situations of Help (DASH), which is an initiative that aims to provide women with a greater sense of confidence and security through basic physical self-defense training and instruction; the Department's participation in the annual Police Activities League's "Shop With a Cop" holiday event at the South Bay-Target; the Department's men's basketball league participation in the Boston Strong Basketball Tournament (in which Suffolk County claimed first place in 2019); and a host of others.

Chief Zamor Calixte is also currently shepherding the upcoming Region 1 Training Conference of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Massachusetts Chapter in Springfield, kicking off on April 27th, on behalf of the Department and the President of NOBLE MA, Sheriff Tompkins.

Outside of her role within the Department, Zamor Calixte has been no less active, providing guidance to more than eleven political campaigns, attending numerous meetings to participate in her community as a civically-engaged citizen, and working to connect those in need with programs and services offered throughout the city, county and state.

"I am passionate about the work of communicating all of the powerful and impactful services that the Department delivers, both behind the walls and out in the community," said Chief Zamor Calixte. "And, I am equally as driven to help those who are committed to improving our neighborhoods, be they elected officials, community organizers or citizens trying to enact positive change."

"I've been truly fortunate to be able to help people, both through the work that I do at the Department and out in the community," Chief Zamor Calixte continued. "If we have the ability to improve the lives of others and our communities, I believe that it's also our responsibility to do so."

Chief Zamor Calixte holds a Master's in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University and a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology.

PARTNER THE OF MONTH

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 highlight these collaborations between our organizations and shed 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 recognition of Women's History Month, we feature Polly Hanson, the Associate Director of Project Place. Project Place is a prominent social service agency in Boston that has been working in the community since 1967, serving clients who face significant challenges. Project Place promotes a community of hope and opportunity for homeless and low-income individuals by providing the skills, education and resources needed to obtain and sustain employment and housing. The importance of jobs and housing has never been greater. Project Place operates out of a sense of urgency with compassion and the know-how to support personal change.

A longtime partner, Project Place teamed up with the Department in 2004 for the inception of the Community Re-Entry for Women Program C.R.E.W., which also included the South End Community Health Center. The three agencies came together to apply for and receive a multi-year grant from the Department of Education. With the C.R.E.W. Program, the three partners began to address the sentenced women's population at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, and their needs for gender-specific employment training and health care support, both pre- and post-release from incarceration. At the time of its implementation, it was much less common for this sort of re-entry program to exist. The C.R.E.W. Program broke new ground in the delivery of support services and resources to incarcerated women.

When asked why C.R.E.W. was created and what makes it stand out from other re-entry programs, Polly Hanson stated, "The unique needs of women who are incarcerated shaped the program's curriculum and services that were – and continue to be – provided. C.R.E.W., from the beginning, was built upon the need for gender-specific programming, the power of relationships and the necessity for building trust with women in re-entry. The connection to education,



POLLY HANSON
Associate Director, Project Place

resources and support begins with women while they are incarcerated and this paves the way for the work to continue after release. C.R.E.W. delivered a familiar face and a consistent employment, housing and health plan that the women could count on. The C.R.E.W. program was truly ahead of its time in understanding the role that trauma and family/community violence plays in women's incarceration. Staff working with C.R.E.W. at both the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and Project Place understood that this also held the key for women's success in re-entry and was central to the curriculum development and ways in which services were delivered."

After the completion of the multi-year grant, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department committed to fund the C.R.E.W. program directly through the Department's budget. The partnership has been able to demonstrate the positive impact C.R.E.W. provides, as evidenced by a lower rate of recidivism for women completing C.R.E.W., as well as positive employment, housing and family reunification outcomes.

The women in Department care and custody are served through C.R.E.W., receiving gender-specific supports in order to help address the myriad issues and trauma that often contribute to their incarceration, including low self-confidence, history of trafficking, sexual violence, parenting concerns, addiction, mental health needs and housing instability.

**Project Place serves all women and men
who cross its threshold.**

**For more information, visit:
www.projectplace.org or call 617.542.3740**



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EMPLOYEE PROFILES

DEPUTY STACEY WOOD 6 YEARS OF SERVICE

What is your role in External Affairs, and what was your transition like coming from the Suffolk County House of Correction to the Suffolk County Jail?

In the External Affairs Division, I work closely with Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) Abe Ayuso and my partner Sergeant Al Cervera, to help communicate the message of the Sheriff's Department throughout the community. We do this by attending community meetings, scheduling and staffing our Choice Program at schools and community centers, conducting tours of the Jail and the House of Correction (HOC), as well as scheduling and staffing community events such as back-to-school backpack drives, community BBQs, "touch-a-truck"s and wellness fairs. We also work with our Human Resources Division in staffing job fairs and career days. I think I am a very social person, so being able to spend the majority of my workday out in the community makes my job enjoyable.

Transitioning over from the HOC was like starting a new job entirely. I gained a whole new group of brother and sister officers inside of the Jail, but still get to see my fellow officers from the HOC, in my new role and when I do overtime, so I didn't have to lose that feeling of camaraderie you get as an officer. Now, I am out in the community, educating our youths on making the right choices to help lead them down a better path, as well as educating our community as a whole that the days of just warehousing inmates are over, and our mission at the Sheriff's Department is to get them involved in classes and programs that will help them have the tools they need to thrive in the community once they are released.

What does it mean to you to work in what is still a male-dominant field, and why do you think it is important for women to be involved in corrections?

Although working in a male-dominant field can still have its challenges, I feel the stigma has dwindled in recent years, as women have proven themselves and worked their way up the ranks. We have numerous women in supervisory roles at the Sheriff's Department. Having women in our field can bring a different perspective and overall atmosphere that I feel affects our Department positively. I especially think it is important in my role in External Affairs, because I can communicate with young women and show them firsthand how we can strive in this field as well as be visible to the young men of our community, so they see this to be normal at an early age, instead of a rarity.



SYLVIA THOMAS ASSISTANT DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SECURITY AND OPERATIONS 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

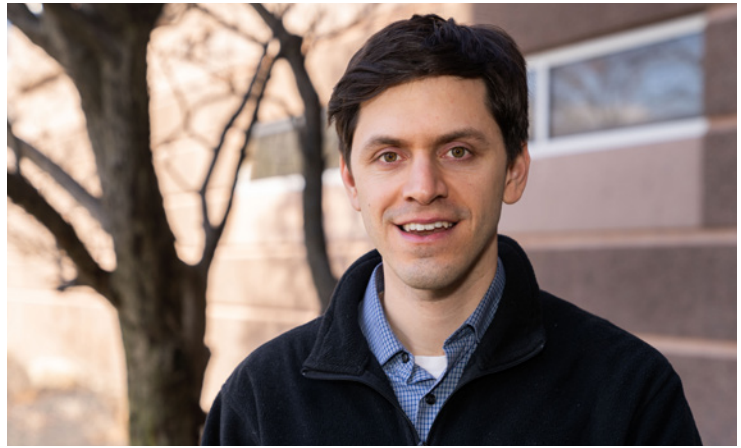
What does it mean to you to work in what is still a male-dominant field, and why do you think it is important for women to be involved in corrections?

Once a male-dominated field, women are now a driving force in corrections. Women are working in every aspect of the business, from correction officers to Special Sheriff, and every rank in between. As women, we bring our own unique talents to this business. We are mothers, sisters, teachers and enforcers. Women are needed in corrections to nurture our population of men and women, helping them to rebuild their lives, and become productive citizens returning back into society.

INSIDE-OUT:

PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE

“When in jail, Inside-Out gave me a sense of freedom, and made me feel accomplished” – Inside Student



Students from Boston College (outside students) and the Suffolk County House of Correction (inside students) have come together in one location, to exchange ideas and perceptions about crime, corrections and justice in a seminar-style college course.

Inside-Out is a worldwide program that takes an innovative approach to education, with thousands of students having participated, and hundreds of instructors, universities and correctional facilities playing a part in making it all possible. Participants of Inside-Out receive the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the United States criminal justice system through theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Some topics of discussion consist of causes and definitions of crime, criminal justice institutions, the myths and realities of prison life, the experiences of crime victims, theories of punishment and rehabilitation, and the relationship between crime and community.

The course is run by Matthew DelSesto, Coordinator of the Incarceration to Education Initiative and Teaching Fellow in Sociology at Boston College. In this role, he coordinates prison education programming at the House of Correction, advises students, develops relationships with community partners, plans campus events, pursues an active research agenda, and teaches courses on crime and

deviance, sustainable communities and introductory sociology. Matthew holds an M.A. in both Urban Practice and Sociology, and has worked in prisons and jails for the last ten years.

For twelve weeks, the students come together every Tuesday evening at the House of Correction and have sessions that include guided dialogue, writings, projects and activities based on weekly topics. They are given a syllabus that provides an outline of the entire course and a reading schedule that aligns with each session topic. The students read approximately 80-100 pages per week that consist of chapters from the novel *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, and content from various journal articles. The students are also required to actively participate, complete weekly essays, and write a final paper and project. Upon successful completion of the course, the incarcerated men who participate in Inside-Out receive four credits that can be applied to a degree at Boston College or transferred to another college/university.

A recent topic of discussion was based on the question, “What are prisons for?” The class also discussed the other assigned readings, which included chapters from *Just Mercy* and an article titled, “Enlightened Prison” by Drew Leder and the Jessup Correctional Institution Scholars. During the session, participants seem to almost forget that they are in a prison setting with incarcerated

men. In that moment, everyone is equal; everyone is eager to share his ideas and perspectives, and simply, everyone is there to be a student. An “Inside” student stated, “This class made me feel like a human being, and feel normal like being outside.”

The students appeared genuinely grateful and noted that they are extremely fortunate to experience a unique environment that allows for honest exchange, for self-expression, and for exploration on not only their views but their peers as well.

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S K-9 TUCO TO GET DONATION OF BODY ARMOR

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department K-9 Tuco will receive a bullet and stab protective vest, thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. K-9 Tuco's vest is sponsored by a fundraiser hosted by Chase Farm Veterinary Hospital of North Dartmouth, MA and will be embroidered with the sentiment "Gifted by Chase Farm Veterinary Hospital." Delivery is expected within eight to ten weeks.

The recipient of this donation, K-9 Tuco, is a single-purpose Narcotics detection K-9 German Shepherd who is handled by Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Mike Carbonneau.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, MA, whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K-9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 3,800 U.S. made, custom fitted, National Institute of Justice (NIJ) certified protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$6.9 million dollars.



The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K-9 graduates, as well as K-9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K-9 is \$950.00. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 and \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K-9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call (508) 824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA 02718.



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- U.S. citizenship
- High school diploma
- Valid driver's license

Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



Suffolk County
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY



SUPT. COLWELL JOINS PANEL AT ENDICOTT COLLEGE

Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Jail Superintendent Michael Colwell took part in an informational session designed to help students to better understand the careers and pathways into the field of criminal justice. Joined on the panel at Endicott College by Boston Police Department Sergeant Eddy Chrispin, and former agent for The United States Department of Justice Robert Botelho, Jr. (RET.), Superintendent Colwell spoke about the skills needed to develop the knowledge and critical thinking to navigate the challenges and rewards of a career in law enforcement, the courts, and correctional systems.

SHERIFF TOMPKINS CO-HOSTS "GET KONNECTED" LUNAR NEW YEAR FORUM

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins joined co-host Melody Mendez of NBC's Channel 10 Boston, for the Get Konnected! Lunar New Year forum. Created by Colette Phillips, President of Colette Phillips Communications, Inc., this special event featured an impressive array of elected officials representing the "new, diverse faces of political power" in Massachusetts. Sheriff Tompkins and Ms. Mendez moderated a discussion that ranged from the importance of representation, to civic engagement, to public health, and much more.



AGE STRONG COMMISSION PAYS VISIT TO PEACE UNIT

Recently, members and volunteers of the City of Boston's Age Strong Commission visited the Department's PEACE Unit to meet with its occupants. The Age Strong Commission works to enhance the lives of people 55 and older with meaningful programs, resources, and connections to others so they may live and age strong in Boston together. Members of the commission engaged in a powerful discussion about what the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. means to the older and younger generation today. The Department's PEACE (Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation) Unit is a specialized housing unit that brings together young men between the ages of 18 and 25 who have been remanded to

our custody and provides them with training and programming that is intentionally calibrated to the mindset of their age group. While the men are still impressionable, our mission is to break the cycle of incarceration by focusing on education, job training and developing skill sets, individual/group counseling, attitudinal changes and conflict resolution.





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 6, 2020 and will be compensated at a rate of \$12.75 an hour.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

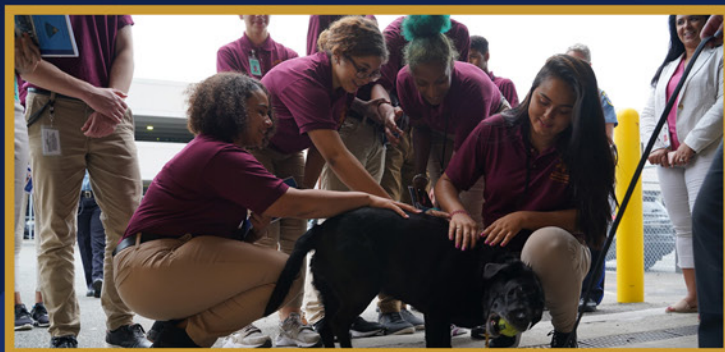
The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Summer Enrichment Program targets incoming 11th and 12th graders with the opportunity to intern at Suffolk County Jail, the House of Correction, Chelsea Training Facility and Civil Process.



APPLICATION DEADLINE :

Thursday, April 30, 2020

APPLY TODAY: WWW.SCSDMA.ORG



REQUIREMENTS

- Must be entering the 11th or 12th grade in the Fall
- 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

QUESTIONS ?

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