



# COMMON GROUND

MAY 2021 ISSUE



## SCSD WELCOMES NEW CLASS OF OFFICERS

## INTRODUCING COTA CLASS 21-01



## SHERIFF'S STATEMENT

MAY 2021



Greetings,

In this issue of the Common Ground Newsletter, we bring you our most recent group of graduates from our Correction Officer Training Academy in Chelsea – COTA Class 21-01. Working at both the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail, these men and women persevered through not only the rigors of a twelve-week academy that entailed intense practical training and academic study, but they did so with the increased degree of difficulty created by strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols. We congratulate them and welcome them all into the SCSD Family.

In addition, we highlight two programs that we offer in a collaborative effort with community partners that provide basic necessities including dress shirts, socks, toiletries, and information about important community resources to members of our population as they prepare to reenter their respective communities.

We also feature a story about our continued efforts to reach more people to encourage full-vaccination against the COVID-19 virus with public service announcements in multiple languages, targeting several different demographics. Finally, we announce my election to the Region I Vice Presidency of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

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

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### SCSD WELCOMES 49 NEW OFFICERS

Read about the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's most recent group of graduates of the Correction Officer Training Academy, COTA Class 21-01.

### DEPARTMENT CONTINUES OUTREACH TO ENCOURAGE VACCINATIONS

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Department have released six videos aimed at increasing the vaccination rate in Massachusetts in the effort to help defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

### SCSD JOINS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES FOR RETURNING CITIZENS

The Department has collaborated with two different community entities to provide the SCSD population with needed supplies and information as they reenter society.



### SHERIFF TOMPKINS ELECTED TO VICE PRESIDENCY OF NOBLE'S REGION I

Sheriff Tompkins was recently elected to serve as the Vice President of Region I for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

# SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BRINGS 49 NEW OFFICERS INTO SERVICE



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently swore forty-nine new officers into the corrections profession following their graduation of the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA).

The members of COTA Class 21-01 gathered for a special graduation ceremony, held at the Aloft Boston Seaport District Hotel, and presided over by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, members of the Command Staff, and training academy staff. Attendance was limited to a small number of Department staff in observance of stringent health and safety protocols as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Families and friends of the graduates were, however, able to observe the graduation in real time on the Department's Facebook Live broadcast.

"First, I want to say, to the family and friends watching electronically...I'm sorry that you're not able to be here with us," said Sheriff Tompkins. "We definitely feed off of your energy and we are looking forward to the next class when friends and family can be here. You are so crucially important to each and every one of these individuals. This is not an easy job. It's a tough job. So, when they go home, they need people to be there to wrap their arms around them...show them that love and appreciation that is warranted. We thank you folks at home for what it is that you do."

"From what I understand from the Training Division, each one of you has excelled in your training and you're ready and prepared for the job at hand," Sheriff Tompkins continued. "I am expecting your best. Every day. Every. Single. Day. And, I hear that this won't be a problem, because you are ready, you are willing, and you are able to excel and keep this Department in the forefront of corrections and accountability to the citizens of Suffolk County whom we serve. I am so happy to see that all of you are joining our Department. I know that you're going to do a great job."

Despite the more restrictive measures necessitated by the pandemic, the members of COTA Class 21-01 completed a rigorous 12-week academy consisting of an intense core of practical and academic training that included, among others; 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, harassment and discrimination prevention, cross-gender supervision, report writing, and more.

"On behalf of COTA Class 21-01, I want to express our sincerest gratitude to Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the entire command staff for allowing us the opportunity to become officers for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department," Class President James Kennedy Loving said during his address. "Success is almost literally impossible without teamwork. Quitting wasn't an option with 48 other teammates feeling the same pain and the same burning desire to succeed. I am honored as elected president to represent this resilient, dedicated and hard-working class."

Receiving special recognition for outstanding performance during the academy were An Ngu, who received the Drill Instructors Award for leadership, motivation, esprit de corps and attention to detail; Darren Woolf, who received the Defensive Tactics Award for outstanding performance during defensive tactics training; Mikey Santiago who received the Physical Fitness Award for outstanding performance in physical training; and, for the first time in academy history, winning three awards, was Paulo Marques, who received the Academics Award for posting a Grade Point Average of 96.7, the Top Gun Award for firearms proficiency, and the Unit Citation Award for outstanding leadership, motivational mentoring and demonstrated professional ethics.

The graduates from COTA Class 21-01 have been assigned to both Department facilities, with Brendon Alford, Michael Antonelli, Joshua Aubin, Jamal Campbell, Patrick Champagnie, Emiliano Chery, Aboubacar Diakite, Kyle Gagnon, Alexander Hall, Andre Hankerson, Thomas Keblish, Mark Kilman, John Mangiasi, Paulo Marques, Joseph McCauley, An Ngu, Michael O'Brien, Cesar Ortiz, Adam Perdomo, Micheal Pierre-Louis, Javier Rodriguez, Mikey Santiago, Carson Straughn, Cory Williams, and Darren Woolf coming to the Suffolk County Jail; and Jesse Carrier, Truman Daniels, Pedro Hernandez, Jerel Hickerson, James Kennedy-Loving, Alejandro Liquet, Elizangela Mendes, Quentin Michel, Patrick Morrison, Franklin Perry, Sirdwayne Reid, Francisco Rivera Hernandez, Paul White, William Carroll, Craig Costoplus, Juan Fabian, Keenan Francis, Daniel Olivera, Wilber Pena, Elis Rosario, Benjamin Wolniewicz, Hugh Byrne, Jakob Hashway, Omer Taha coming to work at the Suffolk County House of Correction.

Congratulations to COTA Class 21-01 and welcome to the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.



# SHERIFF TOMPKINS CONTINUES VACCINATION EDUCATION CAMPAIGN



## PSAs Targeted For Multiple Communities To Encourage Critically Important Vaccinations In Battle Against COVID-19

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department have worked diligently and effectively within the two facilities - the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail - to ensure the health and safety of both staff and the people in Department care and custody.

While successfully maintaining these efforts to isolate and prevent the spread of the virus inside his facilities, Sheriff Tompkins has since widened his scope of protection to include the residents of Suffolk County, and those well beyond, in an effort to keep them safe and healthy.

With an initiative that kicked off in early March, Sheriff Tompkins and the Department created a series of video public service announcements (PSA) designed to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations among residents in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop and across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to help lower the spiking infection rate in the state and hasten the end of the pandemic.

Beginning with his first PSA titled, "It's Up To Us," and producing five subsequent videos, Sheriff Tompkins has assembled

an impressive roster of local elected officials of color, community activists, clergy, and medical professionals to target the communities that have been among the hardest hit by the virus with the highest concentration of essential, public-facing employees and the least amount of access to quality medical care.

PSAs have included outreach to women, seniors, and members of the Haitian, Cape Verdean and Latinx communities and feature, among others, a distinguished list of participants that includes: Acting Mayor Kim Janey; Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz; State Representatives Russell Holmes, Nika Elugardo, Jon Santiago, Elizabeth Miranda and Brandy Fluker Oakley; Boston City Councilors Michelle Wu, Andrea Campbell, Annissa Essaibi George, Lydia Edwards, Ricardo Arroyo, and Julia Mejia; Register of Probate Felix Arroyo, Sr., former Senator Linda Dorcea Forry; former State Representatives Marie St. Fleur and Evandro Carvalho; East Boston Neighborhood Health Center CEO Manny Lopes; City of Boston Chief of Economic Development John Barros; Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, Chief Executive Officer of Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción;

Father Miracle; Pastor Keke; President and CEO of El Mundo Boston, Alberto Vassallo III; Chief Diversity Officer for State Street Corp. Paul Francisco; General Counsel at Compass Working Capital Betty Francisco; Co-Founder of Haitian Americans United Gertrude Delsoin; Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Assistant Deputy Superintendent Abiezer Ayuso and, of course, Sheriff Tompkins himself.

"For those people with the platform and ability to step up and help to promote the safety and wellbeing of our communities, I feel that it is absolutely incumbent upon us to do so," said Sheriff Tompkins. "We need to do everything in our power to encourage our brothers and sisters to get vaccinated because they are vital to our efforts in overcoming this pandemic. We've already lost far, far too many people to COVID-19 and we need to do what we can to prevent any further losses of our family members friends and citizens."

Residents are encouraged to consult with their medical practitioner or visit: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) for information about where and when they can receive their vaccination.



# SHERIFF TOMPKINS ELECTED TO SERVE AS VICE PRESIDENT OF NOBLE'S "REGION I"



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins was elected to the Vice Presidency of Region I for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE).

Already serving as the President of the Massachusetts Chapter of NOBLE, Sheriff Tompkins will now represent the Region I states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, with planned expansion into New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

"I am so honored to have been elected to represent NOBLE's Region I as Vice President and I am looking forward to my work in this additional capacity," said Sheriff Tompkins. "As I've said to NOBLE's membership body and leadership, I intend to continue the fight for equitable public safety and sustainable, systemic change while examining internal and external law enforcement policies and reform, and I will work collaboratively to move the organization forward as a committed justice partner that will influence the public safety debate on the local and national stage."

Sheriff Tompkins has served as the President of the Massachusetts chapter since its revival in 2019. He also currently serves as the President of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association and as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Roxbury Community College.

NOBLE is comprised of 59 chapters in six regions throughout the United States, with a membership that also includes Canada, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, and several

countries in Africa. It is NOBLE's mission to ensure equity in the administration of justice, in the provision of public service to all communities, and to serve as the conscience of law enforcement by being committed to justice by action.

NOBLE was founded in September of 1976 during a three-day symposium to address crime in low-income urban areas and was co-sponsored by the Police Foundation and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The Joint Center for Political Studies (JCPS) coordinated this unprecedented event in which sixty top ranking Black law enforcement executives representing twenty-four states and fifty major cities gathered in Washington, D.C. to participate. During the symposium, attendees exchanged views about the critically high rate of crime in Black urban communities and the socio-economic conditions that lead to crime and violence. Participants raised questions about relevant issues such as fairness in the administration of justice, police community relations, the hiring and promotion of Black police officers, and the unique problems of the Black police executive. NOBLE recognizes that Black law enforcement executives in policing, corrections, probation and parole can have a significantly more effective impact upon the criminal justice system through a unified voice.

To learn more about NOBLE nationally and locally, visit: [www.noblenational.org](http://www.noblenational.org) and [www.facebook.com/noble-massachusetts1](https://www.facebook.com/noble-massachusetts1) respectively.

# FATHERS' UPLIFT, DEPARTMENT SHOW REENTRY SUPPORT WITH "BAGS FOR DADS"



"Bags for Dads" was created to help fathers in the critical immediate hours after their release from custody by providing resources and connecting them to positive influences immediately upon reentry. The Bags for Dads program was created by Father's Uplift, Inc., a mental health and substance abuse facility designed specifically for fathers and families, as a tool that helps to create opportunity by guiding and supporting fathers and men in their reentry journey. Through a partnership with the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Father's Uplift and the Department's Family Matters program are able to donate bags with resources that include dress shirts, socks, tooth brushes, toothpaste and other toiletry items for participants in the program. And, when fathers are ready to be united with their family, mental health counseling is provided by licensed staff social workers.

When asked about the importance of Bags for Dads, Leonard Tshitenge, who is the Director of Coaching Services & Family Interventions at Father's Uplift, stated that, "By providing material of support to fathers and men immediately upon their release, we not only meet a degree of their physical needs, but we also share an important reminder. A 'Bag for Dad' is a signal to a man that they are not in this journey alone; that

others care for them, wish to see them thrive, and are available to support them in their reentry journey. Between our 'Bags for Dads' program and the rest of our reentry programming, we've seen one-year recidivism rates among our served dads at only four percent (4%), [which is] roughly one-third of the general one-year recidivism rate in Massachusetts."

"In 2021, we want to make 'Bags for Dads' bigger than ever," Tshitenge continued. "We are attempting to provide at least 1,000 Bags for Dads to men experiencing reentry. Additionally, we will have an on-the-ground Ambassador Program, our Coaching Programs, group workshops, and group and individual therapy, all offered in support of fathers as they begin their reentry journey. But, that engagement begins first with the small, important signal of support and advocacy found in the provision of a 'Bag for Dad.' In 2021, we will continue to increasingly help lower recidivism rates, reunite and reengage families and broken relationships, and bring healing to both individuals and their communities."

For more information on Fathers Uplift please visit:  
[www.fathersuplift.org](http://www.fathersuplift.org)



# LOCAL ACTIVIST HELPS EASE TRANSITION FOR RETURNING CITIZENS WITH “GOING HOME BAGS”



As a civic-minded socially-conscious citizen working in the community to build partnerships with different organizations, Mindy Butts has been a busy, active person.

What started off as a push for a one- time donation to give out to returning citizens as they leave the doors of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department soon blossomed into a monthly delivery of donation bags for the men and women in Department care when they leave, complete with everything from resource materials to toiletries.

Tapping into the networking skills of Kevin Sibley, Director of the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens and longtime community partner of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, a bond was formed and an ongoing practice was created.

Mindy, who began couponing as a way to save money for her family, immediately saw the impact that it could have on others and selflessly determined to use her couponing skills to help others in need. Now, on a monthly basis, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department will be receiving a donation of 20-25 "Going Home Bags" for the men and women leaving our facility. As those of us in corrections know, reentering the community is a difficult process, but entering back into a community during a pandemic is even harder, and the Department is grateful to Mindy for her efforts.

To read more about Mindy Butts and her personal story, visit:

[www.patriots.com/news/patriots-players-surprise-local-single-mother-dedicated-to-giving-back](http://www.patriots.com/news/patriots-players-surprise-local-single-mother-dedicated-to-giving-back)





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

# BOSTON MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM 2021

 **WED. MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  **10:00 AM**



**Suffolk County Sheriff  
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Councilor**

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# I N M E M O R I A M



## OFFICER PAUL DARCY

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department are mourning the loss of Officer Paul Darcy who passed on April 26, 2021 at the age of 58 after a valiant battle against cancer.

Officer Darcy first started with the Department as an officer at the Suffolk County Jail in October of 2001, having proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force before arriving at Nashua Street.



Though there have been many accolades given in memory of Officer Darcy by family, friends and co-workers, the recurring theme in all of them is that he was a good friend to many and a great husband, father and neighbor.

Officer Darcy is survived by his wife Karin (Revell) Darcy, his children Aubree, Olivia, Gerard and Paul, and several siblings.

Officer Darcy carried a presence that was immediately and profoundly missed by all upon his retirement in early January, and is now deeply grieved as he has departed this Earth.





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Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



***Suffolk County***

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