



COMMON GROUND

JANUARY 2022 ISSUE



2021



YEAR IN REVIEW



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

January 2022



Greetings,

Happy New Year, and I hope that you had a restful and pleasant holiday season.

As a final order of business for the Year 2021, we present to you our Annual "Year In Review" issue with a look at some of the many programs, services, events and efforts that helped to define the past year.

For the second straight year, like the rest of the world, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continued to operate under the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 Pandemic throughout 2021, adhering to stringent health and safety protocols as we worked to mitigate its impact on our population and the men and women who are sworn to care for them while in custody. However, despite the challenges, the Department delivered on a variety of essential programs and services for both the in-custody population and the stakeholders of Suffolk County, while hosting events focused on public safety, civic engagement and building a more vibrant community.

In this issue, you can read about our reduction to the cost of calls made by members of our population to their families in our effort to support and maintain family connections; our ongoing work vaccinating members of our staff and our population, and educating the residents of Suffolk County and beyond about the importance of being vaccinated; our mayoral forum at the House of Correction for members of the population with each of the candidates attending in-person; the addition of official ballot boxes to the lobbies of our two facilities, the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail to help encourage voter participation by eligible members of our population, staff members and local residents alike; our K9 teams; and much more.

As we move ahead into 2022, I look forward to continuing our work together with you, the residents, workers and visitors to Suffolk County as we endeavor to create a safer, healthier and better world for everyone.

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2022.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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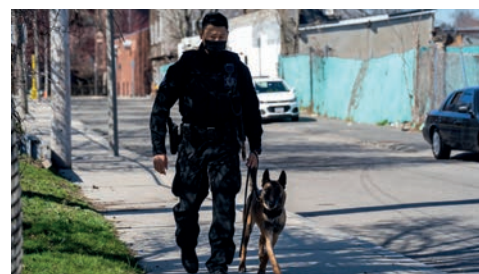
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SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BRINGS THREE ACADEMIES INTO SERVICE FOR 2021



Over the course of the Year 2021, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department swore a total of 117 men and women into service as Correction Officers for the Suffolk County Jail and Suffolk County House of Correction.

With each Correction Officer Training Academy Class (COTA), which included COTA Class 21-01, COTA Class 21-02 and COTA Class 21-03, participants gathered for special graduation ceremonies that were held between the Aloft Boston Seaport District Hotel and Casa Lucia in Revere, and presided over by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, members of the Command Staff, and training academy staff.

Initially, to begin the year, attendance was limited to a small number of Department staff members in observance of stringent health and safety protocols as prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with families and friends of the graduates able to observe the graduation in real time on the Department's Facebook Live broadcast. Eventually, however, a modest number of people were able to attend to cheer on the graduates in-person, albeit with continued emphasis on health and safety protocols and a live feed available for those who were unable to be present.

Despite the more restrictive measures necessitated by the pandemic, the members of each COTA Class 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.

Addressing the members of each class, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins expressed his appreciation for both the journey traveled by the graduates to arrive at this point, and the work that lay ahead for each of them.

"This is not an easy job," said Sheriff Tompkins. "It's a tough job, and I applaud you for going through this academy. This work that we do, you'll find, although it's tough, is very rewarding. You are helping people to improve their stations in life. It's our job to provide the care, custody, and control to help break the cycle of incarceration and give people a fighting chance. We are here to support you to do the best that you can do and make your friends and family proud of you, as I am proud of you."

SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRIBUTES COVID-19 VACCINE TO INCARCERATED POPULATION AND CORRECTION STAFF

Back in January, as distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine continued to ramp up across the nation, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, along with the other Massachusetts County Sheriff's Departments, began the process of inoculating the incarcerated individuals in their custody along with members of the correctional staff.

Starting on Jan. 18th, correctional facilities began their part of the vaccination plan for congregate care settings, in accordance with the timeline established by the Baker-Polito Administration and the Department of Public Health in consultation with the Massachusetts Vaccine Advisory Group. Members of the incarcerated population and correctional officers were placed within the Phase One Priority, (D): Congregate Care, which included both shelters and correctional institutions. Both inmates and correctional staff were vaccinated concurrently.

"We have been working diligently in collaboration with the Baker Administration, the Department of Public Health, the Vaccine Advisory Group and our resident infectious disease specialist Dr. Alysse Wurcel to insure that we continue to be fully prepared for this crucial step," said then newly-elected President of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association and

Suffolk County Sheriff, Steven W. Tompkins. "Our mandate is for the safe custody and care of those remanded to us by the courts, but we also have a critical responsibility for the health and safety of the men and women who deliver on that mandate. These vaccinations protect both our incarcerated populations and the people who oversee their safety, which ultimately protects the health and safety of the general public."

Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi, who had also been recently elected as the new Vice President of the MSA, stated that he was hopeful that the rollout of the vaccine to congregate care settings in Massachusetts would mark a true turning point in the pandemic.

"I think it's important that correctional staff and the people in our care and custody are offered the COVID vaccine at the same time, not only from a medical standpoint to maximize immunity, but to build trust," Cocchi said. "The vaccine is the subject of some skepticism, but I am encouraged by the science. And I'm hopeful that our staff and the people whose health and safety we are responsible for will continue to be accepting of it through education and seeing others around them be inoculated."



SHERIFF TOMPKINS, MASSACHUSETTS SHERIFFS RE-AFFIRM COMMITMENT TO FAMILY CONTACTS

In August of 2021, the fourteen Massachusetts County Sheriffs re-affirmed their unanimous support for one of their highest collective priorities – providing strong support for communication and interaction between justice-involved individuals and their families.

Solidifying their mission to ensure that these crucially important links to family and support systems remained not only intact, but fortified, the fourteen Sheriffs of Massachusetts agreed to provide a minimum of ten minutes of free phone calling per week to all incarcerated individuals. Additionally, the Sheriffs committed to reducing the cost of subsequent phone calls by charging no more than \$.14 per minute.

Strengthening these bonds to family members, friends and outside support systems help to provide a sense of grounding to those in custody, which is beneficial to their efforts to better prepare for life after reentry.

“My fellow Sheriffs and I know that contact with friends and loved ones is an essential component for preparing justice-involved individuals for successful reentry into society,” said Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs Association. “This unanimous decision by the fourteen Sheriffs is reflective of our commitment to those in our care and custody. As the nature of corrections continues to evolve in the Commonwealth, we are proud to re-affirm our commitment to maintaining and strengthening familial bonds.”

By law, fees collected for phone calls must be, and are, used to benefit inmates. This includes educational programs, vocational skills training and other services designed to prepare inmates for re-entry. The Sheriffs remain committed to working with our populations to break the cycle of recidivism that has captured so many in Massachusetts.





SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT HOLD HISTORIC FORUM AT HOUSE OF CORRECTION FOR BOSTON MAYORAL CANDIDATES

In June of 2021, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed the slate of candidates vying to be the next elected Mayor of the City of Boston to the Suffolk County House of Correction for an historic, first-of-its-kind event.

Sitting for questions composed and presented by members of the population, the six candidates became the only mayoral candidates to take their campaigns inside a correctional institution for the purpose of meeting the voting-eligible men and women within the facility. It was also the first time that the entire field of candidates appeared in one place together for a forum, with Acting Mayor Kim Janey, Former City of Boston Director of Economic Development John Barros, District 4 Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell, At-Large Boston City Councilor Annissa Essaibi George, State Representative Jon Santiago, and At-Large Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu sitting alongside each other as they fielded questions from the men and women in attendance.

Hosted and moderated by Sheriff Tompkins, the forum also welcomed special guest Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins. DA Rollins had been a member of the first of this series of groundbreaking panels in June of 2018, when the six candidates running for Suffolk County District Attorney sat before members of the voting-eligible population to answer questions and make their individual cases for election to the position. And, in July of 2020, the Department held another historic forum at the House of Correction with United States Senate candidates Edward Markey and Joseph Kennedy, III.

"These forums are important tools for encouraging civic engagement and providing access to the political process for the men and women in our population," said Sheriff Tompkins, speaking about the impetus for these "behind the walls" forums. "These are critical opportunities through which we can try and remove one of the many obstacles for people who have already faced disenfranchisement and insure that they not only have the chance to be heard by the people who will

represent them, but to help them to make informed decisions about choosing that representation."

During the Mayoral Forum, question topics ranged from addiction, mental health, criminal justice, homelessness, police reform, income inequality and more, with each panelist showcasing their strengths and working to set themselves apart from their competitors in the eyes of the in-person and at-home audience.

Closing out the event with each candidate giving their final pitches, Sheriff Tompkins expressed his gratitude for their participation and hope for the future, even as he vented his frustration over the current circumstances that are driving many into his care and custody.

"I want to thank you for coming in to participate in this forum," said Sheriff Tompkins. "Having you come in to talk to us about what it is that you would do to effectuate some change, to bring some equity to the folks who are here and in our surrounding area is crucially important. We are arguably the biggest, baddest, most affluent nation on the planet and to have as many citizens as we do living on streets, to not have jobs, to be compromised by mental health and substance abuse issues... it's embarrassing."

"So, we're looking at each and every one of you, and whoever wins, you're going to have all of our support, because we need fairness, equity, homes, and jobs for the people in our care and custody and those in our communities."

In the Preliminary Municipal Election, the final two candidates chosen were Essaibi-George and Wu, with several new faces also vying for a seat on Boston City Council, along with other local offices. In the Municipal (final) Election, Boston voters chose Wu to fill the position as the newest Mayor of Boston.

To look back on the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Mayoral Forum in its entirety, visit: <https://fb.watch/60NAQ6U4G4>.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, CITY OF BOSTON COLLABORATE TO EXPAND VOTING ACCESS FOR INCARCERATED POPULATION, AREA RESIDENTS

Back in October of 2021, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and Acting Boston Mayor Kim Janey joined the forces of their respective agencies to help expand voting access for eligible members of the incarcerated population with the installation of election ballot drop boxes at both the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail.

As an outspoken proponent of civic engagement and a dedicated facilitator of voter participation behind the walls with registration drives, candidate forums and informational material distributions for the incarcerated population, Sheriff Tompkins was grateful for this additional opportunity to expand on those efforts.

"We are very pleased to announce this collaboration between the Department and the City of Boston," said Sheriff Tompkins. "These drop boxes will serve to enhance our mission to ensure that the voting-eligible men and women in our facilities are able to participate in this most sacred of our civic functions as easily and efficiently as possible."

In Massachusetts, members of incarcerated populations who are eligible to vote include those who have been convicted of misdemeanor offenses and pretrial detainees, or those awaiting sentencing.

While these new drop boxes were used primarily to expedite the process of securing the ballots cast by the people remanded to Department custody, their location in the public lobbies of the Jail and House of Correction – which are open and staffed twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week, with full surveillance – make them accessible to use by any registered Boston voter.

"I applaud the decision of the Boston Election Department and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to add ballot drop boxes in correctional facilities," said Boston Mayor Kim Janey. "Voting is a fundamental right in our democracy and

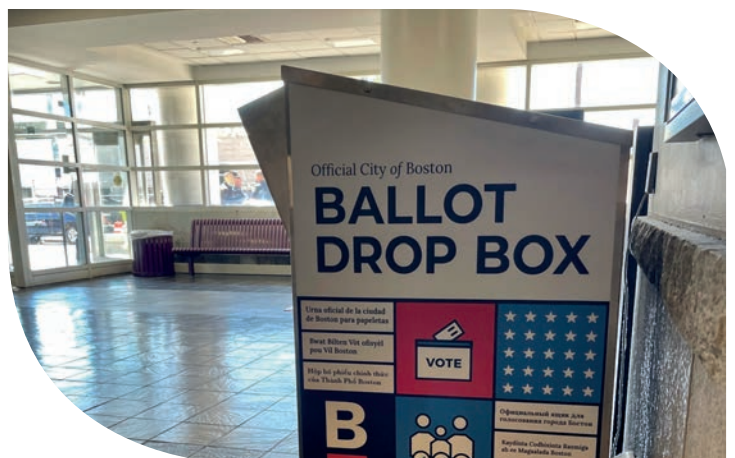
every eligible voter should have convenient and secure options to cast a ballot."

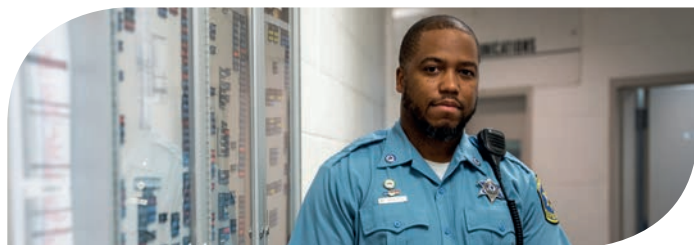
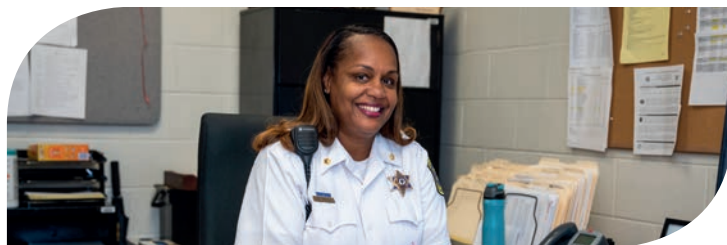
In addition to the efforts undertaken by the Mayor's Office to help establish these new sites, Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia was also a vocal advocate of their placement.

"Civil rights isn't just about defending someone's right to vote, it's about meeting people where they are at and making sure they have access to everything they would need to exercise their right to vote," said Councilor Mejia. "Placing a ballot box inside of our house of incarceration not only extends that right to our incarcerated loved ones, but it helps their families and the employees in these facilities as well. We would not be here had it not been for the advocacy of community leaders like Pastor Hobbs, who has single-handedly helped to enfranchise countless incarcerated loved ones."

And, though the drop boxes are currently designated for Boston municipal elections only, State Representative Nika Elugardo is currently working with Sheriff Tompkins and the State Elections Department to expand their use to include state-wide and national elections.

"There is no civil right more sacred or more fundamental to democracy than the right to vote," said Representative Elugardo. "Incarcerated individuals who are legally able to vote have for far too long been disenfranchised from this right by structural obstacles. Given the disproportionate number of incarcerated people from BIPOC communities, this is structural racism at its worst. I'm so grateful to Suffolk County Sheriff Tompkins and his Office for their innovation and demonstrated commitment to do everything in their power to dismantle these inequities and provide meaningful access to voting by bringing ballot boxes on site, ensuring they get used properly, and ensuring every legal vote is counted. I look forward to passing House legislation to institutionalize the Suffolk County ballot box initiative as a matter of State law."





SCSD OFFICERS IGNORE PERSONAL DANGER IN ACTS OF HEROISM

The work of the correction officer is a critical yet often overlooked function of the law enforcement and criminal justice continuum.

In addition to the fulfillment of the mandate for the safe custody and care of the men and women who are remanded to their supervision by the courts, correction officers also play a crucial role in the delivery of services that are designed to improve the physical and mental

health, educational abilities, employable skills, and behavior of the incarcerated population in their respective facilities.

It is a job that is often dangerous, frequently stressful, and almost always performed with little-to-no fanfare or positive recognition. In fact, in most cases, when correction officers meet the spotlight, it is on the notably infrequent occasion of either tragedy or transgression, with no acknowledgement of their rarity in occurrence, particularly

when compared to the great many instances of steady, commendable and even heroic service.

It is, in most cases, left to the departments, institutions and organizations to tell their own stories and bring to light just a few of those many untold instances in which our corrections professionals have risen above and beyond the normal call of duty to perform exceptional feats.

The following story highlights a trio of correction officers from the Suffolk County Jail whose actions clearly embody the definition of the word "hero."

On the morning of January 10, 2019, an alarm went out from a detainee housing unit within the Suffolk County Jail. Responding from an adjoining unit, Assistant Deputy Superintendent Demaris Smith, then a lieutenant, arrived first on the scene. As she approached the door to the unit, she saw two detainees who were standing aggressively in front of the unit officer, one of them shoving him in the chest. As the control booth sergeant began opening the unit door, Assistant Deputy Superintendent (ADS) Smith saw the two detainees begin violently attacking the officer, bombarding him with punches as he attempted to defend himself.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing," ADS Smith said, recalling the moment. "My first immediate thought was, 'are they really fighting him?'" It was unreal. That was a first for me, to witness it happening right there in front of me and trying to get through that sally port door, which felt like it was opening slower than ever. I was shocked to see them attacking the officer like it was no big deal. We should be off-limits but, unfortunately, some detainees don't respect us enough to know that. My main concern was to get in there and help [our officer] and try to stop the assault."

With no consideration for her own safety, ADS Smith raced in and grabbed one of the detainees by his t-shirt and held onto him as he continued to try and reengage in the assault. Though the officer, who had been knocked to the floor, was now lying unconscious with blood beginning to pool around his head, the detainees continued punching and kicking him.

"I didn't have time to think of my own safety," ADS Smith

said. “I was only thinking of [our officer’s] safety. It was two detainees against one officer and I wasn’t sure if more detainees were going to jump in. I knew I had to do something, anything, to try and stop the assault until more help arrived.”

Immediately, ADS Smith once again moved in and was able to shove both detainees away from the injured officer, holding them off until help arrived in the form of the Sheriff’s Escort and Response Team (SERT). The unit was locked down and medical personnel were able to assess the officer before Emergency Medical Services arrived to transport him to the hospital, where medical diagnosis revealed that the assault had left him with a concussion, an orbital bone socket fracture and a sinus plate fracture, in addition to other injuries sustained during the attack. Ultimately, he survived what could very well have been a fatal assault thanks in no small part to the actions of ADS Smith.

“The incident has been a reality check for me,” ADS Smith said. “We all know the risks working in this environment, but to witness an assault on a fellow officer firsthand, it reminds you, this s**t is real. Yes, I would definitely do it all over again.”

“I saw an officer in trouble, needing help, so I ran in,” ADS Smith continued. “I think any officer responding would have immediately jumped in to help. No one wants to be on the receiving end of an assault. We’re a family, at least while we’re on the job. Some of us are after hours, too. If one of us needs help, we’re all coming if we’re able to. We’re just trying to do our job and leave safely at the end of our shift.”

Though modest in her assessment of her bravery, the Department submitted ADS Smith to the State of Massachusetts’ selection committee to be considered for recognition at the Annual Correctional Employee of the Year Awards. Unfortunately, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic placed the ceremony on hold indefinitely.

In another incident, this time occurring off-site and in the community, two off-duty Department officers displayed a similar disregard for their own personal safety to come to the aid of a fellow citizen in great distress.

While driving home on Interstate 93 after his shift at the Suffolk County Jail, Officer Marqui Murphy noticed a car pulled over in the HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) Lane, just past the Neponset exit, and a woman standing outside of her car.

“It immediately caught my attention, because it’s not something that you see every day,” said Officer Murphy. “Cars are not typically pulled over like that.”

Stopping his car in front of the woman’s vehicle, Officer Murphy could see that she was crying hysterically and holding a small child.

“As I got to her, I asked her if she was ok and then I realized that her baby wasn’t breathing.”

Just as he was beginning to assist the woman, another motorist parked in the opposing lane before exiting their car and jumping over the barrier to come offer their assistance. As she got closer, Officer Murphy realized that his fellow good-Samaritan was also a co-worker at the Department, Lieutenant LeTeya Flambo.

“I saw ‘Teya parking in the left lane and jumping over the barrier,” Officer Murphy recalled in amazement. “At first, she didn’t even know we knew each other, that’s how focused she was.”

“So, I definitely had some tunnel vision going on,” said Lt. Flambo. “I only saw the baby and the hysterical mom. When I first approached them, the only thing that kept going through my mind about the other person that was there helping was that ‘he must be a first responder.’ That kept playing in my head over and over, mainly because this was not something that just anyone would stop for. Even if someone has it in their heart to help, they don’t always know how to help so, they keep going. I don’t remember all that he was saying, but I remember how calm he was.”

As the two officers assessed the situation and began assisting the mother, they noticed an object in the corner of the baby’s mouth. Lt. Flambo instructed the mother of the child to turn her baby to the side and use her pinky to sweep the mouth. Though she was still emotionally distraught, the mother was able to dislodge the object.

It was only then, when the baby began breathing again and the mother was able to see that her child was safe that Lt. Flambo would realize who her fellow emergency responder was.

“Once we knew that mommy and baby were ok, I finally looked up to the ‘other person’ there and, to my pleasant surprise, it was Officer Murphy. We work together almost every day. When we realized that we knew each other we were both vocal, saying like... ‘Hey! I know you!’ The mom was definitely surprised that we knew each other. She kind of looked at both of us like we were a little crazy.”

While their actions were borne of selflessness, character and a shared inner-drive to help others in distress, the inherent danger encircling them in the middle of active highway traffic makes this particular act of heroism all the more remarkable and worthy of recognition.

“I honestly didn’t consider the risk,” Lt. Flambo said. “I saw a mother and a baby that needed help and I remember thinking clearly that I could help them. It sounds a lot more dangerous than how I remembered it.”

“I was honestly just happy that the baby was ok,” she continued. “I understood every fear that the mom was going through at that moment. Before I wake up and decide to put my uniform on, I am a wife, a mom, a daughter, a sister, a niece, a friend and a few other things that are not because of my profession. I understand and appreciate that value of life and the people that I love.”

IN MEMORIAM

OFFICERS

ANTHONY DIAZ AND PAUL DARCY



In the Year 2021, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department mourned the loss of two of its own as Officer Anthony Diaz and Officer Paul Darcy passed away.

On January 1, 2021, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Officer Anthony Diaz died suddenly and unexpectedly.

Officer Diaz, a six-year veteran at the Suffolk County House of Correction, was kind, funny, friendly, and a hard worker. Serving in the Department's Automotive Division, he was passionate about his avocation, eagerly sharing helpful advice with his colleagues about their cars.

Shortly after Officer Diaz joined us, a local police department came calling, offering him a position in their police academy, which he declined, stating that he had found his dream job at Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

Anthony was held by many to be one of the young, up-and-coming officers representing the bright future of both our Department and the profession of corrections. We continue to miss his smile, his upbeat personality and his dedication.

Officer Diaz was survived by his mother and his brother.



On April 26th, the Department lost Officer Paul Darcy who passed at the age of 58 after a valiant battle against cancer.

Officer Darcy first started with the Department 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 were 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 was 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.

The families of Officers Diaz and Darcy remain deeply in our hearts, now and always.



K9 UNIT HELPS TO PRESERVE SAFETY, SECURITY FOR SCSD, SUFFOLK COUNTY

In 2021, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's K9 Division welcomed a number of changes with respect to new officers (Deputies Zachary Miller and Richard Tran); new dogs (welcome to the team, "Jak," "Sasha" and "Stuka!"); and new protocols brought on by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has paused much of the K9 demonstration activity within the communities of Suffolk County.

One of the most important things that has remained unchanged, however, is the K9 Division's crucial role for the Department as one of the first lines of defense and protection against the introduction of narcotics and other contraband into the facility.

"The primary responsibility of an SCSD K9 officer is to protect the perimeter of the facility and to detect and prevent, whenever possible, the introduction of contraband into the facility," said Lieutenant Cornell Lewis, leader of the K9 Division and partner of K9 "Jax." "K9 handlers conduct daily irregular patrols of the outer perimeter and facilities' grounds. In addition, they conduct random and targeted cell searches for the presence of narcotics."

Along with Sgt. Lewis and Jax, the other K9 teams – which include Sergeant Timothy Frates and Stuka; Sergeant Michael Carbonneau and "Tuco;" Deputy William Jackson and "Kai;" and the unit's newest

members Deputy Zachary Miller and Jak and Deputy Richard Tran and Sasha – also provide mutual aid to Boston Police, State Police, and other counties in the state when requested. The Department's K9 Division has assisted with school searches for the presence of narcotics throughout the state, searches for lost children, and has conducted "urban tracks" for fleeing felons.

Embodying the spirit of the words "unit" and "team," each of the veteran members of the K9 Division have welcomed the new additions with open arms and supportive assistance.

"Sheriff Tompkins selected Deputy Richard Tran from the House of Correction and Deputy Zach Miller from the Suffolk County Jail, and both officers are welcomed additions to the unit," said Lt. Lewis. "I look forward to working alongside both of them."

"Deputies Miller and Tran are both great additions to the unit," Sgt. Frates concurred. "They did very well in their respective schools and we're glad to have them on the team."

With respect to the dogs themselves, all six are trained in the detection of narcotics with Jax, Kai, Sasha and Stuka also trained in patrol.

Discussing the method of matching officers with their K9 partners, Lt. Lewis also spoke about the process for determining the appropriate role for each dog based on their personalities.

“The selection of a police work K9 is done by the trainer,” Lt. Lewis said. “For patrol work, the K9 is tested for his or her fight drive, which is, essentially, ‘will the dog continue to fight, or turn and run?’ For narcotics they are tested for their play drive – ‘will they continue to search for their reward or give up?’ Dogs that exhibit the will to complete the task will be selected for school. While in ‘school,’ or the K9 Academy, both K9 and handler will be met with environmental stressors, and will need to learn to work through challenges to achieve the desired result.”

While each Department K9 is accomplished in their respective fields of training and all receive their fair share of adoring fans whenever they appear in public or on social media, perhaps the most famous of the six boasts Sgt. Carbonneau as his partner.

“Tuco probably has the most famous puppy picture of any police K9,” said Sgt. Carbonneau. “He was the puppy in the picture wearing the Boston Police Department harness that went viral all over the internet and social media outlets.”

Similarly, for each of the members of the K9 Division, it is a combination of both their love of dogs and their desire to serve the Department and the community at-large that first drew them into the unit.

“What made me want to become a K9 Officer was the love that I always had for dogs,” said Deputy Jackson. “What I like most about being a K9 Officer is the work, training and interaction with other law enforcement agencies, but most importantly, interacting with the youth and people of the surrounding communities in which we serve. I love being able to do demonstrations to show people what an awesome tool these dogs are and show their abilities.”





THE SCSD'S SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM RETURNS AFTER PANDEMIC PAUSE

One year after the postponement of the program in observance of safety precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Summer Enrichment Program returned for Summer 2021, bringing in students from across Suffolk County to receive instruction and information about potential careers in law enforcement.

Created and launched in 2014 by Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) is a 7-week paid internship that gives young people the opportunity to learn about the multitude of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in and around Suffolk County with the purpose of strengthening both their focus on future employment within the field and their relationships with its professionals. And, though participants still engaged in job shadowing, weekly presentations by members of law enforcement, roundtable discussions, law enforcement-related field trips, and educational tours, the program commenced with a reduced number of interns and enhanced protection protocols in place for all participants.

Kicking off with a visit from Sheriff Tompkins, the SEP also met with additional members of Department leadership, including the Department's Superintendent of the Suffolk County Jail Michael Colwell and Superintendent of the House of Correction William Sweeney, and members of the Gang Intelligence Unit, Sheriff's Investigative Unit, Classification, Program Services, Field Supervision Unit, K9 Division, Political Affairs, Recovery and Reentry Services, among others. SEP participants also received training and certification

in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) at the Department's Correction Officer Training Academy.

As in previous years, SEP members also took part in a wide variety of field trips to, among other destinations, Boston City Hall; the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office; the U.S. Marshal's Office; the Massachusetts State Police Barracks; the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Police Headquarters; and the Greater Boston Food Bank. In their visits, SEP participants met with Acting Mayor Kim Janey in the Eagle Room; Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins; U.S. Marshall John Gibbons; MBTA Chief of Police Kenneth Green; members of the State Police; and learned about the mission of the Food Bank while volunteering to help fill food orders for distribution to residents in need. Participants also took part in a Zoom conference with Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker as part of an electronic "field trip."

"We are grateful for the opportunity to be able to, once again, offer the Summer Enrichment Program to the students of Suffolk County," said Sheriff Tompkins of the program's return. "Unfortunately, the pandemic forced us to pause our program in 2020, but, I believe that it is absolutely crucial to continue to engage our young people in positive relationships with our law enforcement and criminal justice system."

For more information about the Summer Enrichment Program, visit: www.scsdma.org.



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

The Year 2021 was a busy one for Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, who was elected to serve not one, but two law enforcement organizations in addition to his work as the High Sheriff of Suffolk County.

In January, Sheriff Tompkins returned to his former post as the President of the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association, a role that he previously filled back in 2015. Joined by Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi as the Vice President of the MSA, Sheriff Tompkins began his two-year term of service working in concert with the MSA body and its strategic partners to better educate and inform their collective constituency about the important work that the county sheriffs are doing to advance and enhance programs and services that address behavioral health and substance use, women's programming, reentry services, LGBTQI-specific programming, and a host of others.

"I am greatly honored to be chosen by my fellow sheriffs to once again represent the MSA in this capacity," Sheriff Tompkins said at the time. "I believe that we are at a critical inflection point in the relationship between criminal justice and social justice, and I am very much looking forward to working with Sheriff Cocchi and MSA Executive Director Carrie Hill to not only expand on the progress that we're making in the delivery of the comprehensive services we provide for our populations, but to help drive corrections further forward in this way."

Then, in May, Sheriff Tompkins was elected to the Vice Presidency of Region I for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) where he would represent the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, with planned expansion into New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

Sheriff Tompkins had served as the President of the Massachusetts chapter since its revival in 2019 and up until his election as Vice President of NOBLE's Region 1.

"I am thrilled 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 about the election. "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."

To learn more about the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association (MSA), visit: www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-sheriffs-association. To learn about the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, visit: www.noblenational.org.

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-Diaz; 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 Dorcena 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 still encouraged to consult with their medical practitioner or visit: www.mass.gov for information about where and when they can receive their vaccination. To download the montage video, featuring a sample of each PSA, click here: www.dropbox.com/s/yien5hyk219cwxm/02%20Combo%20COVID%20PSA%202021.mp4?dl=0. To access the complete collection of PSAs, visit: www.scsdma.org/covid-19-psa-videos.



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