

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



# COMMON GROUND

SEPTEMBER 2024 ISSUE



***SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2024***



## SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Greetings,

In this September edition of the Common Ground, we highlight the successful 10th year of our annual paid internship, the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), which I created and initiated back in 2014. As many of our readers are aware, the SEP was brought to life with the intention of building a bridge between young people and law enforcement, in addition to providing an avenue to help them explore the many different career paths that law enforcement and the criminal legal system have to offer.

We also shine our spotlight on Jessica Cabrera-Edwards with an employee profile in which talk about her recent promotion to become the Assistant Deputy Superintendent of the Training Division and offer her congratulations.

As many of our readers know, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly collaborates with a host of other agencies that are dedicated to providing the kinds of care and programming that will help to return those in our custody back into our communities with the skills to better support themselves and their families. One such partner, who is doing excellent work with residents of both the Jail and House of Correction, is Roca, Inc., an agency that works to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Finally, as has become tradition each summer, the Department once again took part in the Annual National Night Out celebration, and we bring you some of the sights and sites from this year's two-day observance. We also take you "Around Suffolk County" to share with you our staff members' participation in the August Moon Festival in Chinatown; Hyde Park Open Streets; the Puerto Rican Flag Raising Ceremony in the South End; and the Dominican Parade in Jamaica Plain and Roxbury.

I hope that you'll enjoy reading these and other stories in this issue, and I look forward to bringing you more insight and information about the form and functions of the Department in the editions to come.

- Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

### COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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# INDEX

## ROCA'S NEWEST CLASS OF GRADUATES

The SCSD celebrated the recent graduation of participants from partner agency Roca, Inc.'s intensive rehabilitation program.

Pg 3

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE: ADS CABRERA-EDWARDS

We catch up with Jessica Cabrera-Edwards as she embarks on her new role as ADS and Director of the SCSD Training Division.

Pg 4

## NEW OFFICERS WELCOMED TO SCSD

The Department's Correction Officer Training Academy staff helped to bring thirty new officers online to serve at the House of Correction and Jail.

Pg 5

## SCSD CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR OF SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Department's annual paid internship program for high school students wrapped its 10th successful year. Meet the participants of our most recent class.

Pg 6-7

## SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2024

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Department once again joined the festivities for this year's National Night Out observance.

Pg 8-9

## SCSD WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING EXPANDS, IMPROVES

SCSD's Women's Program Services brought in some new partners and programs this year in an effort to expand and improve our service to women in our care.

Pg 10

## A FOND FAREWELL: MARIE TURLEY

The SCSD bids adieu to Senior Policy Analyst for Women and Senior Programs Marie Turley after ten years of service.

Pg 10

## AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Read about our most recent community outreach efforts and events, which include Boston's Open Streets in Hyde Park, the Puerto Rican Parade, the August Moon Festival, and the Dominican Parade.

Pg 11

# ROCA'S SECOND-CHANCE INITIATIVE: THE "ROCK" FOR AT-RISK YOUTH AND INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

Derived from the Spanish word for "rock," Roca, Inc. has embodied its name-sake to become just that: the steadfast foundation that marginalized and disconnected youth can rely on for strength, support, and personal growth when escaping cycles of trauma and poverty. Founded in 1988 by Molly Baldwin out of Chelsea, Massachusetts, Roca's dedicated staff has committed themselves to disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline by meeting at-risk populations where they are – either incarcerated or entrenched in urban centers of violence. Composed of esteemed mentors and case managers, the Roca reentry team's persistent engagement and trauma-responsiveness initiative has become a benchmark for similar action across the country.

Having demonstrated a profound impact to those they serve along their path, Roca has expanded their services to sites across Massachusetts, Baltimore, and Hartford.

For over thirty-six years, Roca's reentry coordinators have been providing practical lessons on essential life skills and emotional regulation to equip individuals (primarily between the ages of 17 and 24) with the confidence to overcome systemic challenges. The success rate of their participants is paramount to the Roca mission of "relentless pursuit" of finding hope and driving change for communities often ignored.

Where Roca has become a vital link to limiting recidivism across the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's own incarcerated population can be seen in the services provided at the Suffolk County House of Correction and, specifically, at the Suffolk County Jail. The effectiveness of the Suffolk County Jail Roca program model lies in its ability to deliver critical reentry objectives to its participants within a compressed time frame, despite the constraints of a short-term incarceration environment. Throughout the duration of the three-week program at the Jail, participants engage in a series of structured courses, including Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT) workshops that provide conflict-resolution and emotional regulation training. Participants have the opportunity to apply CBT training to real-life situations; a critical aspect of their development.

"Self-regulation is not an easy thing," explained Roca reentry coordinator David Baxter. "It's not easy for adults, so it's definitely not easy for adolescents and young men and women who respond impulsively after enduring trauma. We set out to give them a set of skills to make them think different, feel different, and do different, so they can go on to be productive career women and career men. This is why we have workforce readiness and an employment division."

This practical application is crucial, as it allows participants to navigate real-world hardships while still in a supportive environment.

Roca's Re-entry Coordinators and Education & Workforce Readiness Instructors follow an intense, tailored approach to trauma-responsiveness that works with the personal needs of individuals in the criminal justice system, fundamentally altering the way participants respond to the world around them.

"Our goal and hope is to send them out with a set of skills to make them



more productive citizens, whatever that looks like for them," Baxter added, emphasizing the personalized nature of the program.

By partnering with community organizations and remaining unwavering in their outreach, Roca ensures that they are a constant presence in the lives of those they aim to help. Roca offers to detainees ESOL classes, job preparation, Pre-GED, GED programs, peacemaking circles, and leadership development. By providing these educational and vocational training opportunities to our incarcerated population, Roca emboldens their students to secure employment and achieve economic stability.

Moreover, the peacemaking circles and leadership development programs are essential for fostering a sense of personal responsibility. These initiatives encourage participants to reflect on their actions, understand the impact of their behavior on others, and develop the foresight needed to make positive choices. The focus on trauma-informed care helps individuals address the underlying issues that may have contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system, promoting mental well-being and resilience. This holistic preparation fosters a mindset of self-sufficiency and accountability, reducing the likelihood of recidivism and helping individuals lead fulfilling, law-abiding lives.

The Department is thrilled to celebrate the recent graduates of the Roca program, who successfully completed their transformative three-week training at the Suffolk County Jail on July 12th. With each graduating class, Roca is making a significant difference in the lives of Suffolk County Jail detainees, helping them to emerge from the system with a renewed sense of purpose and direction.

Congratulations to all of our graduates: Tyshawn Carter, Kenneth Ford, Julian Troche, Nashawn Pettaway, Michael Cole, Kqualeke Simplisse, Jaden Rousseau-Rousseau, Luis Malave, and Javnughnee Buckmire! Your commitment to reclamation is an inspiration.

To learn more about Roca's mission in rehabilitating incarcerated individuals with trauma-informed care and empowering at-risk youth from centers of urban violence, check out the team's website at <https://rocainc.org>.





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: ADS CABRERA-EDWARDS

“The most rewarding part of my career has been the transformative impact I have witnessed in the lives of those I have had the privilege to serve.”

What does it mean to be an instructor? To lead with steadfast integrity, empathy, and an enduring willingness to learn? Upon her recent promotion to the esteemed position of Assistant Deputy Superintendent/ Director of Training – a role she assumed in May 2024 – Jessica Cabrera-Edwards reflected on the qualities and career journey that spurred her ascendancy in the Training Division.

ADS Cabrera-Edwards began her time in law enforcement in 1997 as an officer at the Suffolk County Jail. Thinking back to her early experiences, Cabrera-Edwards shares, “My time as a jail officer wasn’t just about enforcing rules and maintaining order. It was a crash course in human behavior, resilience, and the importance of effective communication.”

These formative years instilled in her a profound understanding of fellowship.

“Empathy became the cornerstone of my training philosophy,” she explains. “Effective training should not just impart knowledge, but also instill a sense of understanding and compassion for the people we serve.”

In 2007, Cabrera-Edwards transitioned to the Training Division, embarking on a process of instructor certification. Through renowned programs offered by the Massachusetts Sheriff’s Association, the Municipal Police Training Committee, and other certifying agencies nationwide, Cabrera-Edwards honed her skills as a use of force instructor. Her expertise encompassed an array of topics, including defensive tactics, firearms, baton,

chemical agents, and specialty impact munitions.

In addition to her specialization in use of force, Cabrera-Edwards also served as a Choice officer and a member of the Tactical Response Team (TRT). Her unwavering commitment to service and collaboration played a pivotal role in her meteoric rise through the ranks. Promoted to Sergeant in 2011 and Lieutenant in 2015, she ascended to the milestone of Captain in 2022, marking her dedication and expertise.

As she steps into her new esteemed position as Assistant Deputy Superintendent/ Director of Training – appointed by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins – Cabrera-Edwards is committed to advancing the future of law enforcement training, emphasizing proactive, community-oriented approaches and de-escalation techniques.

“My immediate priorities are clear,” she asserts. “Creating a dynamic training environment that empowers our employees and drives organizational success... Officers will need to be equipped with training that emphasizes conflict resolution techniques, active listening, and empathy.”

Her vision includes integrating training into daily workflows, encouraging lifelong learning, and tailoring programs to individual roles and aspirations.

Addressing the challenges of managing the annual training of a large workforce of 1,000 employees, Cabrera-Edwards acknowledged the complexities.

“Ensuring consistency, engagement, and effectiveness across such a vast group can be daunting,” she notes. Her strategies include fostering an inclusive environment, aligning training with departmental goals, and continuously exploring emerging trends in training.

Throughout her career, Cabrera-Edwards has found the greatest reward in mentoring and guiding student officers.

“The most rewarding part of my career has been the transformative impact I have witnessed in the lives of those I have had the privilege to serve,” she reflects.

Her advice to new recruits and aspiring leaders underscores the importance of exercising humility in every position.

“Master the fundamental skills of your job before aiming for leadership roles,” Cabrera-Edwards advises. “Be a good officer, a dependable colleague, and build a solid foundation of knowledge and expertise.”

Jessica Cabrera-Edwards’ promotion to Assistant Deputy Superintendent/Director of Training is a testament to her dedication, leadership, and vision. Her commitment to excellence promises to shape the future of law enforcement training, ensuring it evolves to meet contemporary demands.

She is an invaluable asset to the field, and we commend her tenacity over the years within the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department.

# SCSD WELCOMES 30 NEW OFFICERS AT GRADUATION CEREMONY



On August 23, 2024, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department welcomed thirty new officers into Department service during a graduation ceremony, held at Casa Lucia in Revere.

Rewarding Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) Class 24-02 for their unrelenting efforts in completing the Department's rigorous academy with admiration were friends and family, who filled the room, along with staff from the Training Division, the Sheriff's Executive Team, and other members of the Department.

"What I love about these graduations is they provide an opportunity for the Department to say 'thank you,' and for the families to see these young men and women moving onto the next stage of their lives," noted Sheriff Tompkins, who officiated the ceremony and delivered the Correctional Officer's Oath. "It gives a real fraternal feel – a family feel... And that's what we need."

The COTA 24-02 class began their journey at the start of June at the Department's Chelsea facility in pursuit of induction into the ranks of officers at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Having achieved this goal at the completion of the academy, they donned their uniforms and badges brimming with pride, eager to apply their learned skills on their new jobs at both the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail, responsibly caring for residents and helping with facility operations.



"I'm so proud of every one of my classmates; individually and as a team," said COTA 24-02 Class President Ashley Tornas. "They did an amazing job and I couldn't have asked for a better group to work with. We carried each other through – even in some of the most challenging moments. We knew we had a finish line and we all just crossed it together."

Officers persevered through months of intensive physical and mental training, filled with educational components that inform

essential caretaking practices and event readiness preparation. Important elements of the academy's tutelage included: understanding CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) rights, CPR certification, supervision of inmates (especially of populations with special needs), criminal law, physical fitness, various emergency safety protocols, substance addiction management, report writing, mental health first aid (MHFA), staff-inmate relations, courtroom testimony, socio-cultural awareness, and much more.

"It is always my goal – and the goal of the training staff – to make sure we get these officers ready to work online," stated Assistant Deputy Superintendent and Director of Training Jessica Cabrera-Edwards, who oversaw her first graduation in this aforementioned capacity. "When you see the hard work that I and the training staff put in to make sure our academy is held to the highest standards, you can see that effort portrayed in the readiness of this graduating class."

During the ceremony, ADS Cabrera-Edwards gave special recognition to four officers who demonstrated outstanding performance during the academy. Melvin Maldonado received the Academy Citation Award, followed by Robert Rohlfling taking home the Physical Training Award. Djeslia Andrade was the announced recipient of the Drill Instructor's Award, while Dana Morley closed the awards segment with two honorary awards, the Defensive Tactics Training Award and the Academic Honor Award.

The remaining graduating class was issued a warm welcome, as they prepared to contribute their valued time to the Department and uphold the ethics espoused by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins as he administered the oath of office to the group, which will be split among service at either the Suffolk County Jail or the House of Correction.

Please join the Department in welcoming the following graduates of COTA 24-02 class: Andrew Alicea, Djelsia Andrade, Kevin Aubry, Socrates Becy, Frisnel Berlus, D'Mitry Bolden, Sauvilet Cine, Shain Day, Alex Falcon, Joel Figueroa, Philippe Joseph, Kervens Laguerre, Guivenchy Lamour, Jhems Lemene, Melvin Maldonado, Ammies Matthews, Dana Morley, Ayodeji Ogundele, Trang Pham, Kenia Polanco, Saurel Rubens Princivil, Vanessa Racine, Ricardo Rebecca, Robert Rohlfling, Anthony Samules, Ivan Santana, William Sayee, John Teixeira, Angelica Tetreault, and Ashley Tornas.



# SCSD CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR OF SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) is proud to announce the successful completion of the 10th Annual Summer Enrichment Program, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders in law enforcement, the criminal legal system, and academia.

This summer, twenty-three enthusiastic high school-age participants joined the paid internship program, embarking on a journey of discovery and professional development. Over the course of the program, these young individuals were introduced to a wide array of potential career paths, both within the Department and across other agencies in the field. Their experiences this summer will undoubtedly shape their futures and inspire them to pursue careers dedicated to public service.

"I was truly amazed at how much [this year's] students are involved in helping shape their own future through adapting current policies and laws," said Sergeant Stacey Wood, who closely led this year's cohort and largely coordinated this summer's field trips and speaker events. "I

can see them in the future making a real change. They really are driven kids."

As many of our readers are aware, the Summer Enrichment Program was first launched by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins ten years ago, back in 2014, with a vision to create a bridge between youth and law enforcement. Over the past decade, this initiative has not only connected participants with our Department, but expanded to expose students to a variety of other agencies in the criminal legal system. The program aims to foster positive and proactive relationships, laying the groundwork for a strong and diverse future workforce in public safety.

Following the strides made by last year's newly introduced research initiative, the program has evolved to include a comprehensive educational component designed to enrich the participants' learning experience. The curriculum covered essential topics – such as leadership ("Leadership Academy"), financial literacy, cognitive development ("Mind Boost"), and civics – under the direction of esteemed lecturers Janelle Ridley, Representative Russell E. Holmes, Gary Bracey,

and Randall Foote among them. The culmination of these classes – supported by guest speakers, tours, and individual investigation – came to fruition in an end-of-summer capstone project, allowing the students to apply their newfound knowledge to investigate a relevant topic surrounding law enforcement mechanics, criminal justice procedures, corrections, and legal studies. In the last week of the program, student groups presented their findings before their peers, SCSD staff, and Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins himself in a structured symposium.

"Expanding upon the Summer Enrichment Program to include a more intentional focus on their education was very significant because a lot of schools don't incorporate a social justice component in their curriculum," explained Janelle Ridley, Educational Coordinator of this year's program. "Having them do a capstone was meaningful because they got to broaden their knowledge of agencies and law enforcement by examining research and data that contribute to policy making."



Another highlight of the program was the chance for participants to interact directly with professionals from various law enforcement agencies, providing experiential education in tandem with classic research. Our students visited the offices of the U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts, Hanscom Air Force Base, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Dorchester Trial Court, the Winthrop Harbormaster, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office for a session with Deputy Attorney General Rontear Pendleton, and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office for a conversation with District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden. They were likewise able to tour various law enforcement and first responder agencies, including the Tufts University Campus Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police Department, the Massachusetts Port Authority Fire Rescue, the Revere Fire Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Umass Boston Police Department, the Boston Police Department Forensics Unit, the MBTA Transit Police Department, and many others.

With appearances from Mayor Michelle Wu and Rebecca Leonard of the Cam-

bridge Police Department Crime Unit, SCSD's partners were able to engage with the students first-hand within our own Suffolk County Jail facility. These many excursions and seminars provided a unique insight into the daily operations and responsibilities of these offices, agencies, and departments, offering participants a first-hand look at potential career paths.



In addition to these external visits, participants also toured our facilities, including the Suffolk County Jail, the Suffolk County House of Correction, and the Training Academy Division in Chelsea. Here, they received instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and lifesaving techniques, providing CPR certification awarded by the American Heart Association.

They also had the opportunity to meet with members of our K-9 Unit, the Sher-

iff's Investigative Division (SID), the Field Supervision Unit, and the Gang Intelligence Unit. Engaging demonstrations with key SCSD staff members – including the medical supervisor, caseworkers, superintendents from both the Jail and House of Correction, and the Special Sheriff Abiezer Ayuso – provided valuable insights into the various facets of our operations. Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins took the time to share his experience and wisdom throughout the summer as well, further inspiring the next generation of public servants through his mentorship.

As we close this chapter on the 10th Annual Summer Enrichment Program, we are reminded of the importance of investing in our youth and providing them with the tools and opportunities to succeed. The External Affairs Division extends sincere gratitude to the entire SCSD team and external allied partners that make enrichment possible, and looks forward to continuing this tradition with expanding efforts to nurture the leaders of tomorrow.

We encourage those interested in next year's Summer Enrichment Program to keep an eye out for announcements and application details at: [www.scsdma.org](http://www.scsdma.org)



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On August 5th and 6th, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department participated in the annual National Night Out (NNO) event, visiting Boston's many neighborhoods to spread awareness and jubilant appreciation for our law enforcement staff and partnered agencies that serve the local population. Communities visited included: Brighton, Hyde Park, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, Mattapan, East Boston, Chinatown, South End, North End, South Boston, and Dorchester.



“When you talk about National Night Out, and you talk about the people coming together, the community is so strong and so vibrant. Everyone’s arms are so wide open. We do this every year and I’m happy to be back out here.”

- Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



Brighton

East Boston



Brighton





Brighton



South Boston



Revere



Clinton



Roxbury



Brighton

Roslindale



# SCSD'S WOMEN'S PROGRAMMING EXPANDS GENDER-SPECIFIC, TRAUMA INFORMED PROGRAMMING



Women's Programming at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department has been instrumental in offering a range of empowering and rehabilitative initiatives for our population of incarcerated women. These programs provide essential resources that help participants regain control of their lives, build resilience, and prepare for a better future. The array of recently provided programs include: The Women's Bar Foundation, featuring guest speakers like representatives from the Mayor's Office of Housing Stability, provides critical knowledge on housing rights, both during custody and post-release. On August 15th, a congregation of incarcerated women at the Suffolk County House of Correction attended the latest session to review crucial information regarding CORIs (Criminal Offender Record Information).

"Matter" Curriculum and "Financial Literacy" Curriculum, an eight-week program that guides women through exploring personal values and creating action plans for positive change in their homes and communities. Through the mission of the organization, the attendees are equipped with training to become change makers in their homes and communities beyond their time in incarceration.

Additionally, Walker Solutions' TIMBo (Trauma-Informed Mind Body) Pilot Program focuses on helping mothers and caregivers manage stress through mindful movement, breathing, and self-compassion practices. Over the seven-week course, Walker Solutions aims to uplift the esteem of women through exercising control over actions and reactions.

atives soon to be offered by the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department include Narcotics Anonymous (providing support for women struggling with substance abuse), Phoenix Gym (promoting physical fitness and providing opportunities that help reduce recidivism), and Now You See (an exhibit awareness program highlighting childhood abuse and exploitation).

These initiatives, facilitated by our own Department's dedicated staff, offer critical support and life-changing education for participants. Special thanks and recognition is given to Jennifer Wolter (the Director of Women's Programming), the rest of the Women's Programming team, and the program instructors, who tirelessly work to uplift others. Their efforts are key to helping incarcerated women find new paths to personal growth and recovery.

Mothers for Justice and Equality have run the "You Other upcoming and returning programs and initia-

## A FOND FAREWELL: THANKING MARIE TURLEY FOR HER SUPPORT OF INCARCERATED WOMEN



Recently, Marie Turley retired from her position in as the Department's Senior Policy Analyst for Women and Senior Programs. Over the ten years she worked at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, Marie remained unwavering in her commitment to providing Suffolk County's female population access to robust programming and case management systems. In an effort to improve women's caretaking, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins entrusted Marie to foster connections with invested personnel and resources that empower incarcerated women. She helped to bring prominent figures like Reverend Liz Walker, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Governor Maura Healey to speak to the population, bringing attention to the unique needs and challenges faced by women in the correctional system. Most notably, Marie spearheaded the collaboration of the Project Paulie (We Feed Each Other) initiative - in conjunction with restaurant Chickadee, the recipient organization Casa Myrna, and the New Garden Society - to provide aid for survivors of domestic abuse through the donation of produce cultivated by the Suffolk County House of Correction Urban Farm Program participants. As the former Executive Director of the Boston Women's Commission and enduring member of the Boston Women's Heritage Trail Board, Marie has dedicated her career journey to enfranchising marginalized women.

She emphasized the importance of individualized plans for each woman, stating,

"The caseworker model was always, 'Okay, something happened, how do you want to fix it?'" This model ensured that every woman had a personalized plan aimed at helping them heal and make positive changes, rather than re-victimizing them by having them recount their past traumas. Speaking on the empathy embedded in rehabilitating repeat offenders, Marie explained, "It didn't ignore the fact that someone had come back, but rather focused on how you could always help them to heal." During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department employed technology responses to maintain and even expand programming for incarcerated women, despite the restrictions on in-person visits. These initiatives ensured that women continued to receive vital services and support, highlighting the Department's adaptability and commitment to their well-being.

"It's been very rewarding... Leaving is bittersweet. I'm looking forward to retirement but it's very hard to leave the work and the people. I loved the chance to work with women and to bring change in the organization."

Looking back on her time within the SCSD, Marie's efforts have helped to pave the way for future advancements in the care and support of battered and incarcerated women, ensuring that her legacy will endure in perpetuity. Thank you, Marie, for your relentless pursuit of feminism in the incarceration system and for championing second chances. We wish you a peaceful retirement.

# AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY



## SCSD JOINS SOUTH END COMMUNITY FOR PUERTO RICAN FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

On July 22nd, 2024, Boston's South End was a stir, brimming with unity and pride over the vivacious local Puerto Rican community and their contributions to the city. Mayor Michelle Wu, city officials, community leaders, and residents gathered at the Puerto Rican Veterans Memorial to honor the rich culture and the lasting impact of Boston's Puerto Rican heritage in a symbolic flag raising ceremony. Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and other members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department were in attendance to pour out their support for Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso and his extensive family, who were especially honored for their multigenerational contributions to the neighborhood.

Thank you, Special Sheriff Ayuso, for the leadership you provide to Suffolk County, both within the Department and to the community at large! You and your family are an inspiration and an example of LatinX excellence.

## DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATES IN OPEN STREETS: HYDE PARK

On August 11, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department participated in the highly anticipated Open Streets Boston event held in Hyde Park. This year's gathering, part of the third annual Open Streets initiative, transformed River Street into a lively, car-free zone from Hyde Park Avenue to Fairmount Avenue. The event featured a diverse array of activities, including live art, music, food trucks, outdoor vendors, and family-friendly fun. The SCSD team was thrilled to engage with the community at our resource tables, where we provided informative materials and distributed Sheriff's Department badges, bags, notebooks, crayons, and coloring books to the children. A special thanks to Garlene Malivert, Tenisha Brown, Kenny Jackson, David Asher, Kenny Stokes, and Tom Maguire for their enthusiastic support and participation. Open Streets Boston continues to offer a fantastic opportunity for residents to enjoy their city streets in new and meaningful ways, fostering community connections and vibrant public spaces.



## SCSD HELPS CELEBRATE AUGUST MOON FESTIVAL IN CHINATOWN

Throughout the last month, the streets of Boston's Chinatown have been buzzing amidst the cultural festivities of the 54th Annual August Moon Festival. Hosted by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England, the festival filled the streets with colorful lion dances, traditional Chinese opera performances, and local vendors in a celebration of joy, health, and the season of harvest. The Sheriff's Department was honored to be part of this cultural tradition, connecting with the community and celebrating alongside the many residents who attended. On August 11th, our staff members offered a resource table giving out our

coloring books, badges, crayons, and more to children and families that strengthen the neighborhood. Many thanks to Jonathan Wong, Yao Feng, Annie Mui, and Tom Maguire for their participation and contributions to the festival, as well as the CCBA for organizing such a vibrant and meaningful event.

## DEPARTMENT TAKES PART IN DOMINICAN PARADE AND FESTIVAL

On August 18, staff members from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly participated in the vibrant Dominican Parade and Festival held at Clifford Playground in Boston. Organized by La Casa de la Cultura Dominicana, the day was filled with vivacious appreciation of Dominican culture, featuring traditional music, dance performances, delicious food, and engaging activities. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with various law enforcement departments while immersing themselves in the colorful traditions of the Dominican Republic. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sabat Tejada, Jorge Serra, Pedro Hernandez, Tom Maguire, and Kenny Stokes for their enthusiastic support and involvement in making the festival a success!





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

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