



COMMON GROUND

JANUARY 2025

2024

Year in Review





SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

JANUARY 2025

Greetings, and Happy New Year.

As we turn the page on another year, I am proud to reflect upon the remarkable achievements of our dedicated staff and partners in advancing the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's mission of safety, rehabilitation, and community betterment. This edition of our 'Year in Review' newsletter highlights the transformative work done across Suffolk County and the collective impact of our presence in 2024.

Inside, you'll find stories that showcase the breadth of our efforts. From the profound success of our women's programming, which continues to provide trauma-informed tools to redefine healthier responses to life's adversities, to the restorative justice efforts of our Richard P. Pacitti Reentry and Transitional Center, which ensures returning citizens have the emotional and vocational resources to rebuild their futures, our programs remain at the forefront of fostering opportunity and growth.

You'll also read about some of 2024's community outreach events and actions, such as the launch of the Family Health Initiative in partnership with the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and Walker Therapeutic Programs, our team's participation at the 48th Annual National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Training Conference in New Orleans, and our staff's participation in National Night Out across Suffolk County's neighborhoods, to name but a few of many. Concerning SCSD's promise to embolden the education of Suffolk's urban youth, this issue pays homage to a decade of mentorship through the Summer Enrichment Program and remembers the support given to back-to-school children and Choice Program students.

This issue also celebrates our staff's exceptional stewardship, giving recognition to the award recipients of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association, the many inter-Departmental leadership promotions, and a message of heartfelt congratulations to our Suffolk County Jail and House of Correction 'Officers of the Month.'

Every article in this newsletter retells a story of progress and purpose — stories of staff members going above and beyond, and a Department committed to bettering our community. I encourage you to read through these pages and join me in recounting the incredible work we've accomplished this year. Thank you for your continued support as we work to strengthen Suffolk County.

With gratitude,
Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

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COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

SCSD's Achievements and Statistics of 2024

Sworn Officers in 2024: 96 graduates

- COTA Class 24-01: 22 graduates
- COTA Class 24-02: 30 graduates
- COTA Class 24-03: 44 graduates



96

Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) Participants in 2024: 23 graduates

- **Program Curriculum:** Leadership, financial literacy, cognitive development ("Mind Boost"), and civics.
- **Program Time:** July 8, 2024 - August 23, 2024
- **Launched:** 2014 by Sheriff Tompkins.



SCSD Awards and Achievements: 4 awardees

- **Type of Recognition:** 4 types of recognition, including, the Outstanding Collaboration Award, the Investigative Achievement Award, Jail Administrator of the Year Award, and the MSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award.
- **Presenters:** 2 presenters, including, The Massachusetts Sheriff's Association (MSA), and The U.S. Attorney's Office.

124

Programs & Services in Operation

APPROX.

19,805

Persons Served in FY (This includes multiple services)

PROGRAMMATIC SERVICES



APPROX.

\$13,219,243.96

Annual Time Cost CY24

4,921

AS OF 2023* Program Graduates/ Completions

AROUND SCSD 2024

- Community Meetings/ Events: 301
- Facility Tours: 51
- Parades: 8
- Senior Identifications: 5
- Choice Program Presentations: 13



156,716

Facebook Post Reach



14,368

Instagram Accounts Reached (90 days)

(+288%)



12,231

X Post Impressions

SCSD REFLECTS ON STAFF EXCELLENCE



As we close the chapter on 2024 and look forward to 2025, we celebrate the remarkable achievements and moments that defined this year for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD). From forging new partnerships to receiving prestigious awards and demonstrating extraordinary bravery, these stories highlight the dedication and resilience of SCSD officers and staff members.

In February, SCSD expanded its collaboration with local law enforcement by deputizing members of the University of Massachusetts/Boston Police Department and Fisher College Police Department. SCSD Superintendent John McLaughlin administered the oath of office, solidifying these partnerships to enhance community safety and mutual support.

This fall, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) was honored with multiple prestigious awards at two distinguished ceremonies, reflecting the exceptional leadership and dedication within the Department.

On November 19th, 2024, during the Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association (MSA) Law Enforcement & Corrections Awards Ceremony at the Great Hall, Superintendent William Sweeney was recognized as Jail Administrator of the Year for his outstanding career in corrections. Superintendent Sweeney expressed his

surprise and gratitude, saying, "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine at 18 years old leading such an incredible organization and working with such great people."



Additionally, at the ceremony, Sgt. Amie Le was honored with the Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award for her professionalism, commitment, and exceptional contributions to investigative matters.

In addition to these honors, SCSD officers were celebrated for their extraordinary work in law enforcement. At the Law Enforcement Public Service Awards presented by Acting United States Attorneys, Sgt. Tyler Peters received the Outstanding Collaboration Award for his pivotal role in Operation "Street Sweeper," a successful initiative targeting dangerous street gangs.

Sgt. Peters reflected on the importance of teamwork, stating, "The most rewarding part was learning from diverse perspectives and building strong relation-

ships with officers from other agencies. Achieving common goals through teamwork was immensely satisfying."

Sgt. Amie Le also earned the Investigative Achievement Award for her efforts in dismantling a major methamphetamine network during Operation "Midas Touch." She acknowledged the collaborative nature of the operation, saying,

"We wouldn't have achieved our results without the support of officers from multiple agencies."

In December, Captain Melvin Reed was hailed as a community hero for his off-duty response to a fiery car accident. With over 31 years of service, Captain Reed's quick thinking and composure saved the life of a trapped driver. "This experience humbled me," Reed said. "When I found out he survived, I was relieved and happy he was back with his family. It reminded me of the importance of our work—not just as officers but as human beings."

As we bid farewell to 2024, these stories remind us of the unwavering commitment of SCSD officers to protect and serve. Their achievements are a testament to the values of resilience, collaboration, and humanity. Let us carry this spirit forward into the New Year, inspired to continue making a difference.

SCSD MARKS MILESTONES AND ADVANCES EXCELLENCE

In 2024, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department made significant strides in community engagement and professional development through a series of impactful events and innovative initiatives.

In partnership with the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and Walker Therapeutic Programs, the Department kicked off the year with the launch of the Family Health Initiative, a groundbreaking program addressing the challenges faced by children of incarcerated parents. Supported by a grant from Massachusetts State Senator Michael Rush, this collaboration includes workshops to strengthen family bonds and post-release support for parents. Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins highlighted the program's importance, stating, "This program offers the opportunity to strengthen the family unit, provide critical services to help children reconnect with their parents, and break the cycle of incarceration."

Over the summer, representatives from the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department expanded their national reach, attending the 48th Annual National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Training Conference in New Orleans. This gathering of over 2,000 law enforcement professionals provided opportunities for executive training and critical discussions on diversity in law enforcement. Special Sheriff Abiezer Ayuso praised the sessions on financial literacy, while Sheriff Tompkins emphasized the importance of inclusive representation, saying, "We owe it to the people we serve – and to ourselves – to continue educating and self-improving."

Within Suffolk County, Department staff maintained a busy year engaging with Suffolk County residents directly. In another exceptional National Night Out (NNO) week, SCSD joined a convoy of neighborhood visits across Boston to celebrate partnerships with law enforcement, with Hyde Park, Roxbury, Allston/Brighton, Chinatown, and East Boston welcoming Sheriff Tompkins and staff with open arms. Building on this momentum, SCSD returned to the community during the Open Streets Boston season, sharing public safety resources and Department swag with visiting families while supporting local businesses and artisans. During the annual Faith & Blue initiative at Highland Park in Fort Hill, SCSD partnered with the Boston Police Department, local churches, and faith leaders for a heartfelt event that included sermons, music, and shared meals. Highlights included a group prayer led by Imam Abdulqadir Farah, visits from Mayor Michelle Wu and District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden, and musical accompaniment by one of SCSD's own officers.



MEN'S PROGRAMMING: THE PINNACLE OF PROGRESS



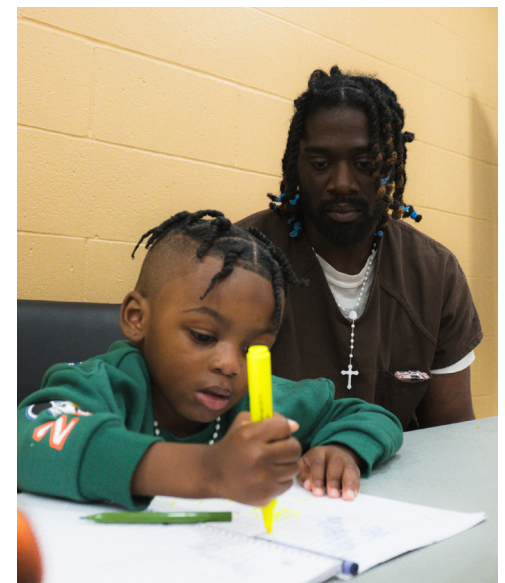
In 2024, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department made significant strides in addressing the needs of its male residents, focusing on rehabilitation, personal growth, and reentry success through the provision of educational, vocational, spiritual, and therapeutic initiatives. This year, the Richard P. Pacitti Re-entry and Transitional Center (RPRTC) expanded its outreach to encourage resident participation and graduation.

One of the key highlights was the continued partnership with Roca, Inc., which delivered impactful trauma-informed counseling to incarcerated individuals at the Suffolk Coun-

ty Jail and House of Correction. Through Roca's intensive courses, participants engaged in Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT) workshops, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, job readiness training, leadership development, and peacemaking circles. The program's success was evident in the numerous graduations, with participants leaving equipped to overcome systemic barriers, build self-sufficient futures, and reduce rates of violence.

The Nurturing Fathers program also flourished in 2024, led by specialists from Boston's Family Nurtur-

ing Center...and SCSD staff. Over a 10-week journey of self-reflection and healing, incarcerated fathers explored the roots of generational trauma, emotional stability, and parenting practices. Facilitator Frantz Dorcena guided participants in breaking cycles of hurt and building stronger connections with their children. With an impressive recidivism rate of just 8%, the program has become a powerful force in rebuilding families and fostering hope, as highlighted by moving graduation ceremonies where fathers shared promises of change with their loved ones in attendance.





Another transformative initiative was the Urban Farm Program, which thrived in partnership with the New Garden Society. Led by Captain Micah Brinson, this program provided incarcerated individuals with hands-on horticultural education, cultivating crops like tomatoes, strawberries, broccoli, lettuce, and more. Beyond agricultural knowledge, participants gained therapeutic benefits, a sense of accomplishment, and community engagement. Some of the season's harvest was utilized in the Department's Culinary Arts Program, given to local food pantries, and donated to organizations supporting those affected by domestic violence, underscoring the program's role in rehabilitation and contributing to the wellbeing of Suffolk County residents.

Additionally, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Common Ground Institute (CGI) continued to make strides in equipping incarcerated individuals with essential vocational skills in carpentry, painting, electrical work, and landscaping. The program emphasized practical learning and personal growth, highlighted by the completion of a new shed that now serves as a multipurpose space for gardening and storage. Structured over seven weeks, the carpentry curriculum balanced classroom instruction and hands-on projects, reinforcing financial literacy and workplace safety. Male participants also contributed to maintaining the facility's environment, fostering a sense of purpose and accomplishment that prepares them for reentry into society.

Lastly, the New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT) program at the Suffolk County House of Correction showcased the power of discipline and focus. Over a 14-week course, participants refined their culinary dexterity while developing life skills such as teamwork, time management, and problem-solving. Under Chef Chris Faison's guidance, graduates demonstrated their newfound abilities through a capstone cooking competition, leaving the program with the confidence and employability needed to thrive both inside and outside the culinary industry.

With over a hundred program services offered across the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's facilities, the Department takes pride in preventing recidivism and bolstering personal growth for the men remanded in their care.



TRANSFORMING LIVES: WOMEN THRIVE WITH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AT SCSD



At the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department (SCSD), the commitment to improving the lives of incarcerated women goes far beyond basic correctional services. It encompasses a range of transformative programs designed to empower, heal, and uplift women during their incarceration. From trauma-informed initiatives to support for survivors of abuse, these programs are not just about rehabilitation—they’re about creating lasting change, building resilience, and restoring hope for a better future.

The Department has expanded its offerings to include gender-specific, trauma-informed programming that addresses the unique needs of incarcerated women. Programs like the Women’s Bar Foundation and its partnership with the Mayor’s Office of Housing Stability provide women with vital information about housing rights, particularly regarding CORIs (Criminal Offender Record Information), offering tools that can help them regain independence post-release.

The “You Matter” and “Financial Literacy” curricula, spearheaded by Mothers for Justice and Equality, offer empowering workshops that help women explore their personal values and create actionable plans for positive change. These eight-week courses also prepare women to become catalysts for transformation in their communities, even after their time in custody ends. Additionally, the TIMBo (Trauma-Informed Mind Body) Program, a collaboration with Walker Solutions, helps women manage stress, trauma, and anxiety through mindful movement and self-compassion practices.

Addressing the Hidden Struggles of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The issue of domestic violence and sexual assault remains a significant focus in these programming efforts. Director of Women’s Program Services Jennifer Wolter’s past work with the SAFER (Survivors of Abuse Feeling Empowered for Re-entry) Program has been critical in providing support for women who have experienced abuse. The program, a partnership with RESPOND, Inc., offers group and individual counseling, safety planning, and holistic services tailored to survivors. Wolter emphasizes that healing begins when survivors reclaim control over their lives—something often taken from them in abusive situations.

Statistics show that one in three women and one in four men experience some form of physical or sexual abuse in their lifetimes. Through education, advocacy, and trauma-informed care, the Department works to break the cycle of abuse and empower survivors to thrive in their reentry to society.



The “Now You See” Initiative: Raising Awareness and Celebrating Survivors. Another vital program within SCSD’s Women’s Programming is the “Now You See” initiative, created in partnership with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office. Jackie Lamont, Director of Youth Safety with the DA’s Office, plays a pivotal role in coming into our facilities and providing a platform for incarcerated individuals—especially women—to express their experiences through art and storytelling. By focusing on childhood abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, physical abuse, and trauma, “Now You See” raises awareness while celebrating the resilience of survivors. Participants create powerful art pieces; engage in discussions and, in doing so, build solidarity and strength with one another.

The program acknowledges the emo-

tional and physical abuse many incarcerated women have endured, providing them with a space to be heard and recognized. “This project is about celebrating survivors, whether or not their cases have even been reported,” Lamont explains. “It’s about validating their experiences and creating an opportunity for healing.”

The SCSD’s Women’s Programming



team continues to foster an environment of support, education, and unification. Upcoming initiatives like Narcotics Anonymous, Phoenix Gym (focusing on physical fitness to reduce recidivism), and Now You See exhibitions will continue to provide life-changing resources that support women in their recovery and reintegration into society.

Through these innovative programs, the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department is paving the way for a future where incarcerated women are not defined by their pasts but empowered by the opportunities to rebuild their lives. These initiatives not only offer vital support during incarceration but also give women the tools to break free from cycles of trauma, violence, and abuse, helping them to create safer, healthier futures for themselves and their communities.

SCSD HIRES 96 NEW OFFICERS IN 2024



As 2024 ends, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department celebrates a year of growth, achievement, and dedication. The Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) presided over three successful graduation classes this year, welcoming a total of ninety-six (96) new officers into the Department. These officers have completed rigorous training, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and the values that define our commitment to public safety.

The year kicked off on April 12th with the graduation of COTA Class 24-01, where 22 candidates were sworn in as new officers. The ceremony, held at Casa Lucia in Revere, marked the beginning of their journey in upholding the values of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins officiated the ceremony, personally swearing in the officers and celebrating their commitment to service.

On August 23rd, COTA Class 24-02 graduated thirty (30) new officers who had completed months of intensive training. From physical fitness to mental health first aid, the class was equipped with the skills necessary to excel in their roles at the Suffolk County Jail and the House of Correction. During the ceremony, Assistant Deputy Superintendent and Director of Training, Jessica Cabrera-Edwards recognized several outstanding officers, including Melvin Maldonado, who received the Academy Citation Award,

and Robert Rohlring, who was honored with the Physical Training Award. Special recognition was also given to Djeslia Andrade and Dana Morley for their exemplary performance.

Reflecting on her first graduation as ADS, Cabrera-Edwards shared, "When you see the hard work from our staff and the dedication of the officers, it's clear that they're ready to contribute to the Department and serve with pride."



The final graduation of 2024, COTA Class 24-03, took place on December 19th, with (forty-four) 44 new officers joining SCSD's ranks. This class stood out for its diversity and the unity it demonstrated in the final stages of training. "What stood out to me about this class was their diversity and how they came together as one cohesive team," said Cabrera-Edwards. Sheriff Tompkins, who swore in the new officers, expressed his pride in the cohort's accomplishments and dedication.

2024 was also a year of significant leadership transitions within the Train-

ing Division. Jessica Cabrera-Edwards was promoted to Assistant Deputy Superintendent/Director of Training, following a distinguished career within the Department. Her vision for the future of law enforcement training emphasizes empathy, conflict resolution, and lifelong learning. "My immediate priorities are clear," Cabrera-Edwards shared, "to create a dynamic training environment that empowers our employees and drives organizational success."

In addition to Cabrera-Edwards' promotion, the Department saw the advancement of other key personnel. Jose Mojica was promoted to Jail Superintendent, and Nicholas Lopriore was elevated to Lieutenant. These promotions reflect the Department's commitment to nurturing leadership from within and ensuring that the team remains strong, capable, and dedicated to serving the community.

As we move into 2025, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continues to build on its legacy of excellence, with a growing team of dedicated officers and leaders. The successful completion of COTA Classes 24-01, 24-02, and 24-03, along with the promotion of key staff members, sets a strong foundation for the future. We look forward to seeing the impact these new officers will have on the Department and the community they serve, as they carry forward the values of integrity, service, and commitment to justice.

SCSD CELEBRATES OFFICER OF THE MONTH HONOREES IN 2024

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department extend their heartfelt congratulations to all the officers who have earned the prestigious Officer of the Month title throughout 2024. As we close out the year, we take this opportunity to celebrate their exceptional service, dedication, and resilience. These officers have demonstrated the values that make our Department a pillar of professionalism and community commitment.

As we prepare for the nominations of 2025, we encourage everyone to take part in honoring your hard-working colleagues. Don't miss the chance to nominate a deserving officer for the Officer of the Month award. Each month, outstanding officers from the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail will be recognized for their exemplary contributions. The selected Officer of the Month will be featured in the Common Ground Newsletter and will receive a designated parking spot for the month as a token of appreciation.

Nominate an officer today and help ensure that we continue celebrating the remarkable individuals who make our Department stronger every day.

JANUARY 2024

Jail Officer, Kelly Brandano
HOC Lieutenant, Joseph Lee

FEBRUARY 2024

Jail Officer, George Allard
HOC Officer, Timothy, and
Officer Aidan Powers

MARCH 2024

Jail Officer, Erin Donoghue
HOC Officer, Princess Exum

APRIL 2024

Jail Officer, Janycia Dejesus
HOC Sergeant, Daniel Fitzgibbon,
and Officer, Edward Johnson

MAY 2024

Jail Officer, Jessica Egan
HOC Officer, William Hickey,
Officer Anthony Saitta, Officer
Freddy Sotto, and Officer
Kenroy Stewart

JUNE 2024

Jail Officer, James Antonetti
HOC Officer, Genio Francois

JULY 2024

Jail Officer, Matthew Murray
HOC Officer, Anna Wong

AUGUST 2024

Jail Officer, Barbara Conway
HOC Officer, Peter Swift

SEPTEMBER 2024

Jail Officer, Kerne Lorse
HOC Officer, Richard Tran and
K-9 Sasha

OCTOBER 2024

Jail Officer, Daniel D'Amico
HOC Deputy, Shawn Riggins

NOVEMBER 2024

Jail Officer, Augustinho Mendes
HOC Officer, Christopher A'Hearn

DECEMBER 2024

Jail Officer, Tracy Denton
HOC Captain, Melvin Reed

10TH ANNUAL SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: A DECADE OF IMPACT



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly celebrated the 10th Annual Summer Enrichment Program, reaffirming its commitment to inspire the next generation of leaders in law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and academia.

This summer, twenty-three high school students participated in the paid internship, which provided a comprehensive introduction to careers in public service. Throughout the program, participants engaged in various preparatory workshops including civics, leadership, cognitive development, and financial literacy. Instructors Randall Foote, Janelle Ridley, Gary Bracey, and Massachusetts State Representative Russell E. Holmes provided extensive tutorship to the mentees, inspiring critical research into carceral state challenges and sociopolitical phenomena over the seven weeks. Graduation from the program was contingent upon their final group capstone presentations, which Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and our Department staff were invited to witness.

Beyond the classroom, students

gained invaluable insights through a plethora of site visits, including the U.S. Marshal's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Winthrop Harbormaster, the Hanscom Air Force Base, the Massachusetts State Police and Port Authority Fire Rescue, the Boston Police Department Forensics Unit, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Dorchester Trial Court, the MBTA Transit Police Department and many more law offices and local first responder agencies. These visits, along with seminars led by professionals like City of Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Deputy Attorney General Rontear Pendleton, and District Attorney Kevin R. Hayden, offered a rare glimpse into the daily operations of aspired community leaders.



Hands-on experiences at the Suffolk County Jail, House of Correction, the Training Academy, and greater Departmental units like K-9, Sheriff's Investigation Division, Field Supervision Unit, and Gang Intelligence added depth to their learning. Students even had the opportunity to earn CPR certifications, equipping them with practical safety skills for the future.



Reflecting on the program's impact, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins shared, "Investing in our youth through education and exposure to public service careers is essential to building a stronger, more informed community."

As the Summer Enrichment Program enters its second decade, the SCSD looks forward to expanding its reach and inspiring even more students to pursue careers dedicated to service.

EQUIPPING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ACADEMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SMARTER 'CHOICES'



In keeping with Sheriff Tompkins' steadfast commitment to youth education, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department reaffirmed its position as a force for safety information, class materials accessibility, and holistic well-being support ahead of the 2024 Fall school year. SCSD officers demonstrated their care by visiting schools across Suffolk County to engage with students of all ages and promote a supportive learning environment. From Franklin D. Roosevelt School in Hyde Park to St. John Paul II Catholic Academy and Sarah Greenwood Schools in Dorchester, they distributed essential school supplies for children in need. These visits spanned neighborhoods such as Roxbury, Mattapan, and Dorchester, reinforcing the importance of scholastic encouragement from trusted leaders and public safety officials.

A key focus of these school visits was the SCSD's Choice Program presentations, designed to empower students with critical life skills and decision-making tools. The Choice Program emphasizes a number of harm-reduction lesson plans, including anti-bullying, resisting peer pressure and substance use, and promoting internet safety. Initiated by Sherrif Tompkins, the mission of the Choice Program is to equip younger generations with the tools

to make wise decisions for their health and future, and in doing so, prevent ensuing emergencies, reduce arrest rates, and empower academic motivation. Officers took the time to understand the challenges young people face at the elementary, middle, and high school stages, offering guidance on how to more positively react. These presentations aim to instill the values of responsibility and self-awareness, helping students navigate the complexities of growing up in today's world. With a new round of Choice officers preparing for expanded mentorship in 2025, the value of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department has been cemented within the Suffolk County Public School District.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Holiday Fun at the Kroc:

Over the last month, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department staff proudly attended numerous charity drives and holiday celebrations at The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in the heart of Dorchester. On December 8th, SCSD was invited to enjoy the splendid "Sounds of Christmas" 9th annual concert, where families all across Massachusetts joined for a free fantastical performance by The Salvation Army of Massachusetts's 40-piece Mass Brass Ensemble, the Massachusetts Divisional Chorus, and nearly 100 young dancers, tim-



brel players, and vocal talents. Following suit, our officers volunteered to assist the Kroc Center's annual Toy Drive, bringing cheer and holiday relief to local families in need ahead of the Christmas season. Finally, SCSD returned to the charitable scene on December 12th for the center's Senior Christmas Engagement event. Together with community volunteers and Kroc Center staff, officers shared heartwarming moments with the 'sensational' seniors who attended. The room was filled with gratitude and joy, as the seniors were surprised with thoughtful gifts, delicious meals, and an all-out trivia game. Thank you to our partners at the Boston Kroc Center, for your continued care in the community.



Heroes and Helpers:

On December 13th, our officers joined the Revere Police Department, Revere Fire Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and other first responders for the first annual "Heroes and Helpers" event at the Revere Target. Held in partnership with the wonderful Revere Target staff, this event hosted Revere Public School District children from families in need for a pizza party donated generously by Luigi's Pizza and a Christmas shopping trip accompanied by officers. Revere Fire Chief Chris Bright weighed in, calling it an "unforgettable holiday experience...". Revere Police Chief David J. Callahan added, "This event showcased

the true spirit of the season and the joy of coming together for such a special occasion." SCSD is honored to have helped offer respite and trust with the families of Revere this holiday season.

SCSD Joins Annual Shop With a Cop:

This holiday season, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly joined forces with the Boston Police Department and other first responder organizations for the heartwarming "Shop with a Cop: Heroes and Helpers" event at the South Bay Mall's Target. Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and officers from our Department volunteered their time and generosity, supporting children from local families in need as they enjoyed a \$100 shopping spree at Target. The night was filled with smiles, laughter, and holiday cheer as the officers helped the children pick out gifts, making the season brighter for families in the Boston community. The collaboration with the BPD, City of Boston, Massachusetts State Police, MBTA Police, and Boston EMS made this event a huge success, embodying the true spirit of giving and community support. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is grateful to have been part of such a joyful occasion, spreading festive cheer and creating unforgettable memories for all involved.



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

Ella J. Baker House Christmas Party:

This year, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department was invited to join the Boston Police Department at the Ella J. Baker House & Azusa Christian Community "All in the Family" Christmas Party. Hosted by the revered Reverend Eugene Rivers at the Second Church in Dorchester, this night saw a splendid sharing of homecooked meals to families in attendance, served to them by officer staff. Throughout the dinner, attendees gathered in laughter and prayer, complete with Christmas music classics and a visit from Boston Police Commissioner and Chief Michael Cox. Afterwards, children received wrapped toys and Christmas gifts, donated generously by the Boston PD. It was a splendid evening of goodwill, strengthening relations with our fellow first responders and faith-based community leaders.



SCSD's Holiday Concert Brings Music and

Cheer to the HOC: On December 20th, 2024, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department hosted a heartwarming Holiday Celebration for the women at the House of Correction, organized by the SCSD Women's Program. The event featured a delightful concert by six talented participants, who sang beautiful holiday songs, filling the room with joy and festive cheer. As they savored ginger cookies and hot chocolate, the women were treated to the musical accompaniment of Matt Savage, a renowned jazz pianist and composer, who volunteered his time to enhance the performance with his piano skills. The celebration was more than just a concert; it was a powerful reminder of the healing power of music, fostering a sense of community and connection. The event left a lasting impression, highlighting the Department's ongoing commitment to supporting and uplifting those in its care while creating warm memories for all involved.

SCSD Joins Survivors Awareness Month Balloon Release:

On December 7th, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly joined Mothers for Justice & Equality at the Annual Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month (SHVAM) Balloon Release in Mattapan, a heartfelt event that honored victims of homicide and their families. Held at Walker Playground, participants released balloons inscribed with victims' names, sending them skyward as a symbolic gesture of love, remembrance, and hope for justice. This poignant moment was a collective stand against violence, bringing together community members, organizations, and advocates in solidarity with those still seeking answers. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is grateful to be part of this important event, which underscores the Department's commitment to supporting survivors, raising awareness about violence, and fostering a safer, more compassionate community. Together, we continue to work toward a future where justice prevails and every life lost is honored.



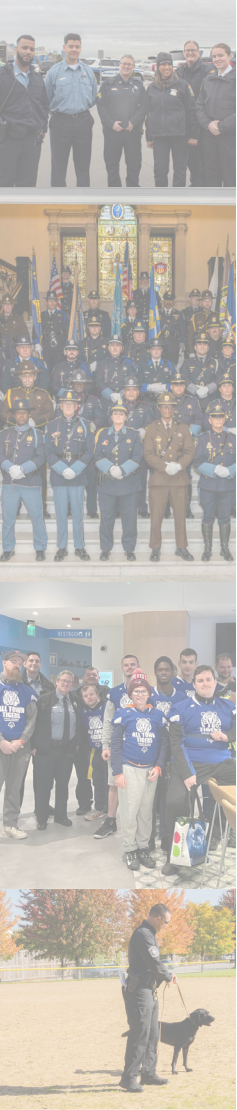


REFLECTING ON 2024 AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

As we close out 2024, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department reflects on a year filled with accomplishments, growth, and community spirit. We've celebrated personal and professional milestones, including promotions within our ranks, and strengthened our commitment to service, collaboration, and empowerment.

As we look ahead to 2025, we carry forward the lessons learned, the bonds formed, and the enduring sense of pride that comes from being part of this remarkable team. Together, we continue to rise to the challenges before us, making our Department a place of integrity, compassion, and excellence. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, and here's to another successful year ahead.

~Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins





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

WISH EVERYONE A

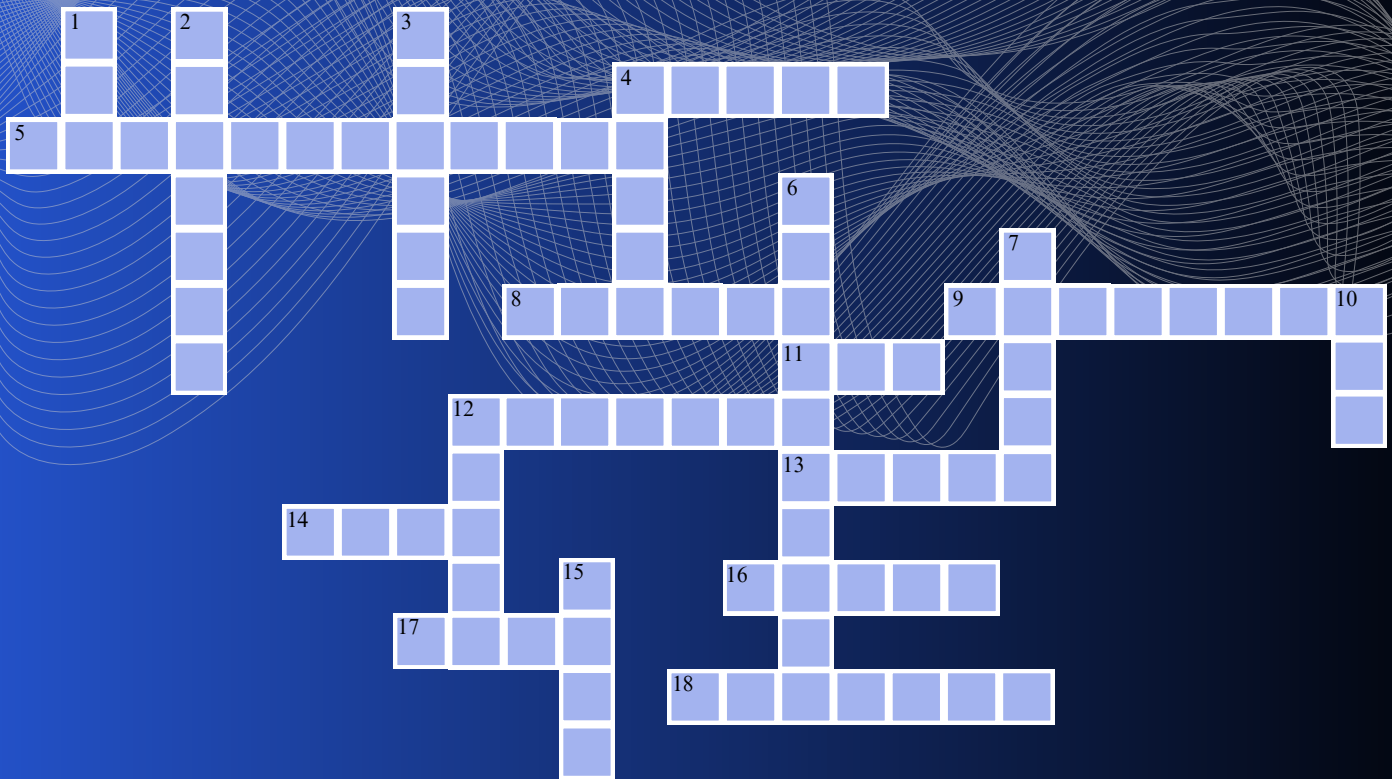
Happy
NEW YEAR

#WeAreSCSD • www.SCSDMA.org

SCSD'S CROSSWORD



This crossword puzzle is designed to help you reflect on what you've read throughout the Common Ground January 2025 Edition. Each clue relates to key themes and events, or quotes you've encountered. To solve the puzzle, carefully read each clue and fill in the corresponding word in the grid.



DOWN

1. An annual neighborhood campaign to celebrate police-community partnerships
2. The target participant demographic of the Family Nurturing Center
3. A partnered leader in the fields of children's behavioral health and welfare
4. The renowned culinary arts teaching practicum, operating out of the HOC training kitchen
6. A frequently featured pastime sport played by staff for community engagement with youth and friendly cross-agency competitions
7. Imam Abdulqadir ____; the head of Islamic spiritual services at the HOC
10. Coalition of Massachusetts Sheriffs, which recently awarded Superintendent William Sweeney as the Jail Administrator of the Year
12. SCSD's Women's Program Services Supervisor
15. A style of musical composition, often performed by local musicians to the residents and staff at the HOC

ACROSS

4. Cultural conference focused on leadership and inclusion in law enforcement
5. Skillset obtained after completion of the Urban Farm Program
8. Sergeant honored for investigative excellence at the U.S. Attorney's Law Enforcement Public Service Award
9. Specially recognized SCSD division, serving as a vital checkpoint and communication hub for the Department
11. An essential unit, responsible for facility safety and contraband detection
12. A french militia model mimicked in the culinary industry to establish order
13. ____ year of operation for the Summer Enrichment Program
14. A psychology framework utilized in ROCA workshops to provide conflict-resolution and emotional regulation training
16. A program launched at the House of Correction in 2018 by RESPOND, Inc.
17. Certification opportunity provided by the Common Ground Institute
18. Recently retired Suffolk County Jail Superintendent

SCSD'S WORD SEARCH

This word search puzzle features words related to the key themes and events from the Common Ground January 2025, Edition you've just read. All the words are hidden in the grid-horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. As you search, think back to the important moments and ideas that stood out to you in the stories.



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Security
Honor
Academy
Corrections
Custody

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Prevention
Recovery
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Badge
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