

SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



COMMON GROUND

MAY 2025



AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE SCSD'S

MAINTENANCE DIVISION



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

MAY 2025

Greetings, and welcome to another edition of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department newsletter, the Common Ground.

In this issue, we shine a well-earned spotlight on the Department's Maintenance Division. With members of the team working at both the House of Correction and the Jail, this team's dedication and daily sacrifice is often unsung, as they quietly work to make our facilities operational, safe and secure.

In addition, we share with you a feature about some of our newly-promoted custody and non-custody personnel who have taken the reigns of their new positions over the course of the past few months.

Other stories in this issue include the recent recognition of SCSD staff members for our ongoing work with Toys For Tots; our win in the Latino Law Enforcement Group of Boston (LLEGO) Women's History Bowling Tournament; our visit to the Kroc Center in Dorchester to present our D.A.S.H. women's self-defense program, and much more.

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 issues to come.

~Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

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RIISING THROUGH THE RANKS: SCSD CELEBRATES 2025 PROMOTIONS

Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the other members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department are happy to announce the latest promotions for 2025. These individuals have shown strong commitment to the Department and their leadership has not gone unnoticed. We encourage you to learn about their stories and celebrate their achievements.



Michael Lally, Superintendent of the House of Correction:

Michael Lally, who previously served as Assistant Superintendent, is our newly appointed Superintendent of the House of Correction. With thirty-one years of experience at the Department, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and efficiency in his various roles.

"I'm honored to be promoted to Superintendent of the Suffolk County House of Correction," said Superintendent Lally. "Since starting as an Officer in 1994, I've served in roles like Unit Officer, Central Control, Transportation, Community Corrections, and SERT (Sheriff's Escort and Response Team) — each giving me valuable insight into our operations. Advancing through the ranks to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Assistant Superintendent, I've had the privilege of working across all divisions, including Security,

Medical, Education, and both Men's and Women's programs."

"Working with Union Locals 419, 3967, and 298 has taught me the value of proactive problem-solving and strong collaboration," he continued. "As Superintendent, I'm committed to leading with integrity, setting high standards, and promoting a positive culture that supports both staff and residents. I believe that professionalism builds trust, reduces conflict, and improves cooperation."

Communication is the backbone of effective leadership. I plan to continue prioritizing transparency, recognition, regular one-on-one check-ins, and an open-door policy to help ensure I stay connected to the concerns and suggestions of those we serve and work alongside, fostering mutual respect throughout our Department.

I'm excited about the challenges ahead and look forward to working together to achieve our goals. I appreciate your support as I take on this new role."

~Superintendent Lally

Mark Lawhorne, Assistant Superintendent of the House of Correction (Former Director of Reentry).



Steven Siciliano, Director of Reentry Services:

Steven Siciliano, recently promoted to Director of Reentry Services, began his career more than two decades ago as a probation officer, serving years later as Reentry Management Assistant.

With over three years of experience in reentry and community support, he found passion in helping our residents transition from incarceration back into society.

In his new role, Siciliano oversees reentry opera-

tions, strengthens partnerships with community agencies, and works to reduce recidivism by expanding resources and support for returning citizens.

"The goal is simple: the more resources we have, the greater the chances of success for those reentering society," Siciliano said. "We have a dedicated team that truly cares about the individuals we serve, and my role is to equip them with the tools they need to make a meaningful impact."

Siciliano also said that he values teamwork, leading by example, and staying balanced through family time, exercise, and golfing.

His promotion reflects both his dedication and care for those he serves.



Elizabeth Conley, Chief Administrative Assistant:

Elizabeth Conley, Chief Administrative Assistant and former Records Clerk, has been with the Department for nearly three years. She manages inmate and detainee paperwork, ensuring information

is entered accurately, runs reports corresponding with the various courts, and prioritizes victims' notifications.

Elizabeth's journey within the Department began as a Criminal Justice intern, inspired by her family's connection to the field. After two years, Elizabeth rose through the ranks due to her strong work ethic and dedication. She finds helping families and victims who call for support most rewarding. Outside work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and discovering new restaurants. She also finds joy in mentoring her colleagues, adding, "I love what I do and being able to help my co-workers and train them. I feel like I'm a good leader."



SUFFOLK COUNTY JAIL, MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Maintenance Division is a versatile team responsible for the upkeep of the Suffolk County Jail, the House of Correction, and the Training Division in Chelsea. Their tasks range from electrical, carpentry, and plumbing work to snow plowing and pest control, covering every square foot of the facilities, from cells and administration offices to sallyports and control panels.

Suffolk County Jail, Maintenance Division: As you walk through the corridors and the units of the Suffolk County Jail, you might hear the buzz of power tools and the echoing thud of boots on the tiled floors; these are the sounds of the Maintenance Division keeping our facility running day and night. They not only make every lock click, every light shine, and every faucet flow, but they also ensure the safety, functionality, and comfort of everyone inside.

Leading the Maintenance team at the Jail is Sergeant Ronald Bernard, who has been with the Department for over fifteen years and has been part of the Maintenance team for the past six. Before joining maintenance, Bernard served as a Unit Officer on the 7-3



shifts, worked in Central Control, and even served in SERT (Sheriff's Escort and Response Team), but it was in Maintenance where he truly found himself. Encouraged by former Assistant Superintendent Thomas Cloherty, and with an extended background in construction, Bernard walked into the Maintenance Division and never looked back. As Jail Superintendent Jose Mojica says, whether stepping in to help when short-staffed or staying late to finish a project, "Sergeant Bernard goes above and beyond the call of duty."

Bernard is also recognized for his work ethic and humility when it comes to working with his colleagues. He notes, "Getting promoted in 2022 was special, but convincing the union and the Department to allow a cook-out during Officer Appreciation Week—and then cooking for everyone—that's what I enjoy."

For Bernard, the maintenance crew is about more than just fixing things—it's about building a sense of community. He has been instrumental in fostering a supportive and collaborative work environment for everyone. "The job is not exactly glamorous, but the friendships and brotherhood make all the bad days much easier."

Bernard also enjoys working on special projects like the renovations currently underway for our new collaborative effort with Boston Medical Center, the EVOLVE Project. His personal interests, such as spending quality time with



his son and visiting the zoo on his days off, keep him motivated and bring a sense of balance to his life, which, in turn, positively impacts his work in the Maintenance Division.

Working alongside Sergeant Bernard is Deputy Kerne Lorse, Deputy Revon Lobo, Sergeant George Allard—known as the division's 'heart and soul'—and Deputy James Antonetti, known for his dedication and love for his job.

With eleven years in the Department and experience across several roles, Allard brings hands-on expertise and a genuine desire to make life easier for others by assisting in as many tasks and projects as possible. His proudest project? Installing unit workstations to give officers a more comfortable place to work.

Deputy James Antonetti, a jack-of-all-trades with eighteen years of service and four in Maintenance, is equipped with a variety of skills, from emergency electrical fixes to day-to-day repairs. His quick thinking during a near-incident in 2024 helped prevent a significant emergency, exemplifying the team's readiness and reliability. His philosophy? "I try to give 100% in everything I do. The harder you work, the easier things become—and when it's easier, it's actually more fun."

Together, this crew keeps the Jail running smoothly—not just by fixing things, but by fostering a sense of community, pride, and purpose in every corner they touch.



AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE



MAINTENANCE DIVISION

SUFFOLK COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION, MAINTENANCE DIVISION



Behind every bolt tightened, every pipe fixed, and every gate restored are our professional individuals from the House of Correction's Maintenance Division. They ensure the smooth operation of the entire facility, keeping it running like a well-oiled machine every day.



With over thirty-one years of service, including fifteen in maintenance, Lieutenant Sean McCormack's journey is a testament to his Dedication. He began his career working in Units, Transportation, and the Automotive Division before finding his Maintenance Division calling with former SCSD Lieutenant John DeSolio's encouragement. Today, McCormack isn't just the supervisor and team lead of the Maintenance Division; he's the engine behind the team's momentum. His responsibilities go far beyond assigning shifts. He orders essential supplies, coordinates with contractors, schedules repairs, and tackles some of the most complex mechanical challenges in the facility himself. From rerouting wiring after a significant power failure to replacing vital components in the Sallyport's control system, McCormack's fingerprints are on every major repair and project.

Though the challenges themselves provide him with ample motivation, it's the sense of team unity that drives McCormack, who noted: "We work together as a Division, always learning and improving. We take pride in what we do and pass our knowledge on to each other to make the job easier for the next guy."

The HOC Maintenance team

handles everything from plumbing, welding, electrical, and metal fabrication to ceiling and floor repair, locks, gates, and more. If it's part of the building, they've probably worked on it.

Alongside Lieutenant McCormack are Officers Edward Bannon, Russell Chaney, Daniel Cotter, Melvin Maldonado, Joseph Ristino, Kevin Kerthi, Jerel Hickerson, and Steven Cournoyer.

Officer Jerel Hickerson joined the Department four years ago, starting as a Unit Officer. With a strong background in carpentry, Hickerson transitioned into the Maintenance Division two years ago—and immediately brought practical skills and creative solutions. He now handles general plumbing, but his impact goes far beyond that, contributing to projects like refinishing officer panels and helping build the Department's new podcast studio in Reentry. One of his more intense moments? Working during lockdown searches, where the team had to identify and remove altered or dangerous items.

Hickerson is proud of the duality of his role, stating that, "Being able to operate a functioning unit as an officer, and also maintain the utilities, is an accomplishment. Not everyone wants to do what we do. But we do it. Find your part—and do it."

Within the HOC's maintenance shop, you will also find Officer Steven Cournoyer, whose strong background in welding played an essential role in his transition into Maintenance, which was a natural fit, thanks to his professional skills

with metalwork. With thirteen years in the Department and over eight on the maintenance team, Cournoyer's arduous tasks include general plumbing, full-scale fabrication, and locks.

"Whenever we fix something, and it works, it makes us feel proud and that we've accomplished something," Cournoyer said.

One project he remembers vividly involved building custom food traps for every door in the 8-1 and 8-2 Units. It required cutting into doors, fabricating components from scratch, and ensuring they functioned perfectly. "That one took time," he reflected, "but when it worked, it felt great. We were proud."

Today, the maintenance crew continues working together, supporting each other, and taking pride in every fix. From painting walls to fabricating hardware from scratch, these officers are responsible for nearly every touch-point in the facility.



Reflecting upon the Maintenance Division's vital role in keeping our facilities safe and functional, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Department honor the grit, talent, and teamwork behind every repair. They may work out of sight and behind the scenes, but their impact is seen and felt across the Department.





Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins &
The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

Celebrate
**MOTHER'S
DAY**

May 11, 2025

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO OUR DEAR MOTHERS

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AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

SCSD Honored By Toys for Tots:

Members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department were recognized for their dedication to bringing joy to local children during the 2024 Toys for Tots drive. The honor came during an Awards Banquet



hosted at Cathay Pacific Restaurant in Quincy by the U.S. Marine Corps' Greater Boston Chapter. The event also celebrated the efforts of the Boston Police Department, local fire rescue teams, and other community leaders who helped make the holiday season brighter for families across Suffolk County. It was a meaningful evening of gratitude, shared stories, and camaraderie among those committed to serving others.



Empowering Through Self-Defense: SCSD Brings D.A.S.H. Program to the Kroc Center:

In honor of Women's History Month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department brought its D.A.S.H. (Defensive Aids in Situations of Help) Program to the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Dorchester to a lead women's self-defense and safety training session. Led by Assistant Deputy Superintendent and Director of Training Jessica Cabrera-Edwards and COTA Instructor Nicole Gaines, the class provided participants with critical safety strategies—including teaching participants how to use their voices effectively in emergencies — and hands-on instruction in key self-defense techniques such as strikes and escape maneuvers. As our D.A.S.H. Program continues to promote safety and empowerment — we remain committed to delivering impactful services that enhance the safety and wellbeing of our Suffolk County community.



Suffolk Sheriff Phantoms Strike Gold At LLEGO Bowling Tournament For Women's History Month:

The Department is celebrating as returning champions with a win that also became a powerful act of giving. The Suffolk Sheriff Phantoms—also known as “Amo a Loíza”—won first place at the Latino Law Enforcement Group of Boston (LLEGO) Annual Women's History Month Bowling Tournament. The team, led by coach and SCSD Special Sheriff Abe Ayuso and comprised of SCSD Sgt. Durrell Lymon, SCSD's DaShanna Pitts, Sharaad Chase of the MBTA, and Shaun Miskell of Rouses Houses, returned to the winner's circle after narrowly missing the title last year. Their grit and team spirit paid off with a \$1,500 grand prize. But the celebration didn't stop at the lanes. In honor of Women's History Month, the Phantoms chose to donate their winnings to Casa Myrna, a Boston-based nonprofit that provides shelter, advocacy, and resources for survivors of domestic violence. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is honored to support Casa Myrna and their mission to empower and protect women in crisis and we applaud our champions, not just for their skills in the lanes, but for their commitment to lifting up our community in meaningful ways.





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

— CELEBRATED AND SUPPORTED —
**NATIONAL
AUTISM
ACCEPTANCE
MONTH** 



April 2025

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