SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



COMMON GROUND



COTA 25-02 GRADUATION

SCSD JOINS ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS



SHERIFF'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2025

Welcome to the September edition of the Common Ground Newsletter. In this issue, we highlight the many ways the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continues to support and invest in the rehabilitation and growth of those in our care. Through our programs, services, and community outreach, we remain committed to providing

our incarcetated population with the tools they need to heal, recover, and make meaningful contributions to their communities upon return

This month's edition features our continued partnership with Radical Reversal, which offers music and creative writing workshops to residents of the PEACE Unit, fostering creative expression and personal transformation. We also recap several recent community engagement efforts, including the conclusion of our Summer Enrichment Program, National Night Out, and other events held throughout Suffolk County. Additionally, we are proud to share a story about C.O.T.A. Class 25-02 graduation, where we welcomed 14 new officers into the Department—each prepared to uphold our mission with integrity and commitment.

We also recognize our August Officers of the Month, whose exemplary service stands as a model for others. Additionally, we honor the legacy of Marie Turley, who was a lifelong passionate advocate for women's rights and gender equality.

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

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SCSD WELCOMES 14 NEW OFFICERS AT GRADUATION

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly marked the graduation of Correction Officer Training Academy (C.O.T.A.) Class No. 25-02 at Casa Lucia in Revere on August 29, 2025. The ceremony, held before an intimate audience of family, friends, Department staff, and representatives of the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association, celebrated the hard work and dedication of fourteen new officers as they prepared to embark on their careers in corrections.

Lieutenant Nicholas LoPriore opened the program with welcoming remarks, setting the tone for an afternoon of reflection and achievement. Suffolk County Jail Superintendent Jose Mojica delivered the keynote address, offering words of encouragement and pride in the graduates' accomplishments, while Assistant Deputy Superintendent Jessica Cabrera-Edwards followed with the Director's Address, highlighting the perseverance and dedication that carried the class through their weeks of intense training.

Speaking to the distinct character of the C.O.T.A. 25-02 class, ADS Cabrera-Edwards remarked, "I feel an immense sense of pride to watch Class 25-02 blossom. Each recruit has conquered a challenging journey, completing a rigorous academy that tested their mental fortitude, physical endur-

ance, and unwavering commitment. The effort set forth by the entire academy staff is what led Class 25-02 to successfully complete the program." She continued with the following advice: "My one piece of advice would be: never forget your humanity, and always lead with humility."



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly welcomes the newly appointed Officers of Class 25-02 to their official assignments. Those joining the Suffolk County Jail are Officers Henry Allen, Mercedes Greeley, Joseph D'Arriago, Joshua Valenzuela, Romuald Claude, and Joseph Clark. Assigned to the Suffolk County House of Correction are Officers Daymon Davis, Mateo Dibranaj, Nazaiah Evans-Noel, Annie Glass, Candido Hernandez, Rickie Lopes, Dante Lo-Russo, and Thierry Medard. Each graduate now steps into their new role with pride, ready to serve with professionalism, integrity, and commitment to serve those under our care.

Additionally, several graduates were recognized for exceptional performance: Joseph D'Arriago received the Drill Instructor's Award, Annie Glass earned the Academic Award, and Joshua Valenzuela was honored with the Physical Training Award. Mateo Dibranaj distinguished himself with both the Defensive Tactics Award and the coveted Unit Citation. Valenzuela also served as Class President, with Daymon Davis as Vice President, representing their peers with pride and leadership.

Congratulations to C.O.T.A. class 25-02, who now join the ranks of those entrusted with upholding the Department's mission of care, custody, and control for the protection and betterment of the Suffolk County community. "Beyond the uniform, the badge, and the imposing walls of a correctional facility lies a profession that demands an extraordinary blend of strength, intellect, and humanity. To be a Suffolk County Correction Officer takes unwavering resolve and mental fortitude, exceptional communication and observation skills, impeccable integrity and professionalism, physical fitness and situational awareness, empathy balanced with firmness, and a commitment to public service." Shared ADS Cabrera.

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DEPARTMENT'S SEP 2025 INTERNSHIP CONCLUDES

Another remarkable chapter of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's paid Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) came to a close on August 21, 2025, marking the successful conclusion of the 11th consecutive year. With the participation of sixteen ambitious students from Revere, Winthrop, and Boston, this year's paid internship offered an exposure to law enforcement and an immersive journey into public safety, leadership, and civic engagement. Over the span of seven transformative weeks, the interns delved into a rich curriculum filled with hands-on training, interactive workshops, and unforgettable site visits to agencies across the state. From the FBI Headquarters in Chelsea to Hanscom Air Force Base, the Massachusetts State House, and Boston City Hall, students had the opportunity to engage with public safety professionals and lawmakers at all levels. Their itinerary included visits to Revere's Fire and Police Departments, the Winthrop Harbormaster, the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Massport, the MBTA Headquarters, and Tufts University, among other notable agencies.

Within the Sheriff's Department itself, participants trained in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), defensive tactics, and first responder readiness, and gained insight into issues such as mental health, substance use disorder, and others. Weekly lectures with community leaders like State Representative Russell E. Holmes, Janelle Ridley, and former U.S. Attorney Rachael Rollins added depth to the experience, empowering students with knowledge in financial literacy, street law, and leadership.

This year's program culminated with a creative twist on the traditional capstone project, presented at the SEP graduation ceremony on August 21st at Roxbury Community College's Reggie Lewis Center where students showcased custom-designed board games, cleverly teaching lessons in public safety and social awareness through dynamic games.



















ROLLING THE DICE ON INTERACTIVE LEARNING: A CAPSTONE MODEL FOR SUCCESS IN PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

With summer's end comes a new academic school year cycle, and with it, a wrap on the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department (SCSD) Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). Having finished its eleventh run, the eighteen students of the 2025 SEP cohort have taken to reimagining the hallmark capstone project. As a culmination of the knowledge acquired throughout the 7-week program, the final capstone has historically asked students to pair into groups and devise research-backed proposals addressing public safety's most pressing intersectional challenges. Presented at this year's SEP graduation ceremony, held at Roxbury Community College's Reggie Lewis Center on August 22, the day joined SCSD colleagues, program mentors, and families alike. Only this time, participants broke away from the expected slides and research reports to install a board game showcase, in turn, teaching a thing or two about effective learning strategies for the classroom.

At graduation, audience members rolled dice, moved pieces, and confronted scenarios that forced them to weigh questions such as: Should public safety agencies adopt artificial intelligence tools to predict crime? Would investing in neighborhood mental health clinics reduce harm more than increasing police patrols? What does fairness look like when communities have competing needs?

Such questions came to fruition through the students' direct introduction to the domains these issues govern.

Throughout the course of the summer, participants traveled across Greater Boston and beyond to engage with a plethora of sectors in the public safety sphere, meeting industry-leading professionals and lawmakers along their route.

Among these community leaders, Gary Bracey, CEO of Chief Bracey's Promotions and instructor at the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail, adapted his tutelage of his Mind Boost class to meet the unique needs of the SEP.

In his own words, "Mind Boost consists of three basic [components]: speed reading, mind mapping, and memories." Bracey's course encourages out-of-the-box notation taking, deemed "compatible with the way the human brain remembers," in accordance with neuroscience principles. Speed reading and memory retention strategies similarly train the brain for greater memory retention, creative processing, and discerned information synthesis, advancing students' accumulation of knowledge; an evermore



necessary skill in the current literacy and education crisis. Beyond traditional learning environments, such mind-boosting strategies can elevate problem-solving thinking for workforce readiness.

The defining theme of the capstone was to engage young people as active participants in their own learning. A 2014 meta-analysis of 225 college courses conducted by Scott Freeman and colleagues found that students in "active learning" in classrooms—where they solve problems, debate, or apply knowledge—outperform their peers by 0.47 standard deviations, or nearly half a letter grade. As published in their report "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)," students in lecture-only settings were 1.5 times more likely to fail compared with those in active learning environments.

The board-game format added another powerful layer. Studies consistently show that project-based learning, where students research, design, and present solutions, produces measurable gains in problem-solving and collaboration. A 2023

meta-analysis of 66 studies published in Frontiers and Psychology found project-based learning had a moderate but significant positive impact on academic achievement and higher-order thinking skills. Researchers who study game-based learning have found that games, when well-designed, boost both engagement and comprehension. A comprehensive review in the Review of Educational Research concluded that game-based approaches enhanced learning outcomes by a meaningful margin, particularly when players had to make decisions, face consequences, and reflect on outcomes.

This summer, we saw that truth play out in real time. The board-game format transformed abstract topics into lived experiences. With titles including Heart-2Heart, Battleship AI Destroyer, The Coping Realm, and Crimenopoly, the SEP 2025 cohort tackled expansive topics from mental health awareness needed in our own communities, to substance use disorder education for youth, to safety guidelines for navigating the digital age.

As our students return to school this fall, we hope they carry with them the lessons of this summer: that creativity is a strength, that grappling with tough questions builds resilience, and that they already have the power to shape a safer, fairer world. And we hope we, as a community, carry forward the lesson that teaching works best when it engages lateral thinking and robust experiential learning together.

In this installment of the Intersection, We would like to give special thanks to our SCSD staff, whose constant dedication to local youth engagement helps keep this program thriving for current and future generations. Thank you, Community Outreach & Youth Programs Coordinator Lucretia Goodson, Sgt. Stacey Wood, Officer Estherline William, and Administrative Assistant Stephona Wilson-Singleton.

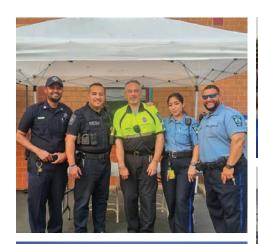
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SCSD JOINS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO) 2025



Sheriff's Department proudly joined Boston's citywide National Night Out events, collaborating with Boston Police and City of Boston lawmakers to engage the public in resident-led block parties, resource fairs, and family-friendly activities. Mayor Michelle Wu, Suffolk County District Attorney Kevin Hayden, City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, and BPD Commissioner Michael Cox were among the civic leaders in attendance, alongside members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's command staff. Our officers and greater SCSD team staffed information booths across Boston's neighborhoods, passing out swag materials and mingling with families to promote dialogue and accessibility in a celebratory setting. This year's participation underscored why National Night Out remains vital: to strengthen community engagement and build trust between law enforcement and residents.



























ONE VERSE AT A TIME: TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC AT THE PEACE UNIT

Through rhythm, reflection, and self-expression, our youngest male residents at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's PEACE (Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation) Unit continue to discover the power of their own voices through music, poetry and composition thanks to our ongoing partnership with Radical Reversal—the organization that has been teaching rigorous music and writing seminars for the last few years within our facilities.

As our readers already know, the PEACE Unit is designed specifically for young men ages eighteen to twenty-five. Kenneth Jackson, Director of this unit and caseworkers supervisor, has overseen it with passion and vision. With over ten years within the Department, where he originally started as a case worker at the Suffolk County Jail, being "the middle man between the inmate and the outside world," as described by him, Jackson brings a deep-rooted belief in human potential. From a very young age, Jackson developed a profound interest in Law Enforcement, and when growing up, he went to college with the vision to become a district attorney, but his path shifted toward corrections, where he found his calling not in prosecution, but in people. "Learning people is one of the things I do best," he noted. "Corrections felt like a calling to help those who have made a mistake. It's always good to be a resource for others."

Today, Jackson oversees over twenty individuals inside the PEACE Unit—a group he understands often struggles with emotional regulation and impulse control. Helping these young men reframe their thinking, changing their outlook, and reshaping their behavior is something that Jackson sees as part of his role, explaining, "The male brain isn't fully developed until the age of twenty-seven. It's imperative that we help them shift their mindset so they can return to their communities as better, stronger individuals."

This mission led to a Zoom meeting between Radical Reversal's co-founder, Dr. Randall Horton, and Kenneth Jackson, and quickly grew into something greater. Soon after, Cheryl Buchanan, founder of Writers Without Margins and Dr. Horton—two nationally known, award-winning authors and poets—worked collaboratively and brought to our PEACE Unit artistry workshops focusing on movie scripts, poetry, resumes, and TV writing with the goal to provide creative outlets by engaging them in poetry, music production, and writing.



Radical Reversal Studio inside the PEACE Unit From left to right: Devin Brahja Waldman, Randall Horton and Cheryl Buchanan.

Today, the program continues strong. Once a month, Radical Reversal's Arts Director, co-founder and musician, Devin Brahja Waldam, instructs the workshop sessions in the PEACE Unit's recording studio, where participants have the opportunity to write, sing, produce, and record original songs. "Music once gave me direction and purpose. So, I believe music can help people express what they're going through, and find a way to heal." Shared Devin reflecting on his experience with music.

Devin teaches our residents how to create music using original beats and rhythms that he creates himself or that are donated to Radical Reversal and encourages them to reflect on their personal experiences and challenges, but also to create lyrics that promote growth and positivity. "We want to give them a creative outlet that uplifts," shared Devin. "They can write about their struggles, but we challenge them to look beyond the pain and write toward hope."

The PEACE Unit's philosophy is

mirrored by Kenneth Jackson. "We've created an environment that's conducive to real change," he noted. Adding, "Discipline here means accountability. I often ask these young men to get uncomfortable and to stop relying on their boys or family to get them through the process because growth only happens when you step outside of your comfort zone."

From day one, residents are guided into programs that offer not only skill-building, but purpose. And the results are evident with Radical Reversal's services. Participants frequently express their gratitude during workshops, telling Jackson and Devin how much the opportunity means to them and the simple fact of being heard and guided by people who genuinely care, as Devin notes, "Students tell us it's a great opportunity not just to have access to a studio, but to have someone there bringing them cool projects, and training them. It gives them something to look forward to and to believe in."

And that is exactly what Kenneth Jackson hopes for. Over the years, he has worked tirelessly to build long-standing partnerships with organizations, in which many of them volunteer and work with our residents at no cost and out of a shared belief in second chances, healing, and transformation. One of them is Radical Reversal. "If we can help change one or two. Those one or two can go out and change two or four. That's how we make a real difference." Jackson noted.

One verse at a time, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department continues to provide the best services for our population, from the youngest to the oldest, helping them to reclaim their stories and rewrite their futures.

If you would like to learn more about our partnership with Radical Reversal, contact Kenneth Jackson at:

kjackson@scsdma.org

And if you'd like to learn more about Radical Reversal, visit them at:

radicalreversal.org

SCSD RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE IN AUGUST OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

For the month of August 2025, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department proudly honors Officer Kevin Scadding of the Suffolk County Jail and Officer Ryan Green of the House of Correction as Officers of the Month. Both demonstrated exceptional dedication, vigilance, and professionalism in their roles, earning the recognition and respect of their peers and superiors alike.

Officer Kevin Scadding, who has been with the Department for over ten years, plays a crucial yet often unseen role in the Jail's kitchen operations. Lt. Brittany Carroll praised Scadding's work ethic, particularly his leadership during the DOC Cycle 1 Audit preparations, where he assisted not only in the kitchen but also with the loading dock and laundry operations. "Officer Scadding made himself available on his days off and consistently demonstrates hard work, teamwork, and dedication," noted Lt. Carroll.

Reflecting on the honor, Scadding shared, "This recognition makes me feel a lot of gratitude... we're down in the basement, we're not seen every day, so this really means a lot."



Officer Kevin Scadding, Suffolk County Jail



Officer Ryan Green, Suffolk County HOC

At the House of Correction, Officer Ryan Green, just three months into the job, made a life-saving impact. While conducting routine rounds in the segregation unit, Officer Green was alerted to a suicide attempt. He responded immediately, initiating the appropriate emergency protocols and playing a key role in saving the inmate's life. "It feels great to be recognized," Green said. "It makes you feel like you're wanted and appreciated within your workforce." Assistant Deputy Superintendent Lauren Kelly commented on his quick thinking and calm professionalism during the incident, "Officer Green made the appropiate radio transmission and was instrumental in saving a life."

Congratulations to Officer Scadding and Officer Green for exemplifying the mission and values of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department—proving that no matter the role or the length of service, excellence is always recognized.

IN MEMORY OF MARIE TURLEY: A FEMINIST, A CHAMPION, AND A FRIEND



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department mourns the loss of Marie Turley, a lifetime of advocate for gender equity and restorative incarceration rights. She served the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department tirelessly for ten years as Senior Policy Analyst for Women & Senior Programs in the External Affairs Division, where she left an indelible mark on our work with incarcerated women and their families before retiring last September in 2024.

Throughout her career, Marie remained committed to uplifting and empowering women, particularly those whose voices were too often silenced, whether they were survivors of domestic violence or any host of systemic barriers. At the Sheriff's Department, she advanced gender-responsive programming that ensured women facing incar-

ceration had access to meaningful case management, trauma-informed care, and growth opportunities.

She strengthened Department partnerships with powerful leaders across the local political landscape, including Reverend Liz Walker, Attorney General Andrea Campbell, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and Governor Maura Healey, with the intention of addressing the unique needs women face in the correctional system.

Marie also spearheaded innovative initiatives like Project Paulie ("We Feed Each Other"), which connected the Department's Urban Farming Program and the New Garden Society participants with survivors of domestic abuse through donations of fresh produce, in partnership with Seaport restaurant Chickadee. Her work in fortifying relations with the recipient domestic violence shelter, Casa Myrna, linked rehabilitation to community healing for countless Bostonian families.

Marie's influence extended well beyond our walls. As the former Executive Director of the Boston Women's Commission and a founding member of the Boston Women's Heritage Trail Board, she worked tirelessly to advance women's leadership and preserve women's history in Boston. Her work played a pivotal role in bringing to fruition the Boston Women's Memorial, unveiled in 2003 on the Commonwealth Avenue Mall, which honors three of history's most influential women: Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone, and Phillis Wheatley.

She was also a longtime organizer of the Boston Area International Women's Day Breakfast, nurturing it into a vital community tradition for nearly three decades. Her civic service included working closely with Mayor Thomas Menino's administration, where she earned a reputation as a trusted advisor.

At every stage of her career, Marie led with both intellect and heart. She modeled compassion while demanding accountability, reminding us that rehabilitation requires empathy and that second chances are worth fighting for. Her work during the COVID-19 pandemic exemplified her adaptability and commitment, as she expanded programming for incarcerated women even amid unprecedented restrictions.

Marie often spoke of the love she had for the people she served. As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her extraordinary legacy. She was a shining force in our community — a feminist, a champion, and a friend. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department honors Marie Turley's decades of dedication to justice. Her work will live on in the lives she touched, the programs she built, and the countless women she helped find their strength.

AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY: SPECIAL SECTION - RED SOX AREA CHURCH LEAGUE AWARDS



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department congratulates our officers who were recently recognized by the Boston Area Church League for their outstanding dedication to coaching and mentorship. Their commitment to guiding young athletes both on and off the court exemplifies the Department's mission of community engagement and leadership. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and service.

Officer Kerson Lara Jr.

A Boston native, Officer Kerson Lara Jr. was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in and around Dorchester, where his lifelong love for baseball led him to play through middle school and into his criminal justice studies at Roxbury Community College. Since joining the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department as a correctional officer in 2019, he has continued to stay active in sports through both the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Softball League and a local Dedham league. As a coach with the Boston Area Church League, Officer Lara commits himself to teaching children the fundamentals of baseball and helping them form trust with public safety officials. A former YMCA after-school and summer counselor, Officer Lara brings years of experience mentoring youth, and credits that work with shaping his approach to guiding young people today. Happily married and a proud father of five, he is motivated daily by his family and by his commitment to showing kids that there are positive opportunities beyond electronics—that through perseverance and community, they can prosper.

Lieutenant Holy Nelson

Lieutenant Holly Nelson has proudly served the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department for 19 years, beginning as a Correctional Officer in 2006 before rising to Sergeant in 2018 and Lieutenant six years later. A Salem State University graduate with a degree in Social Work, she brings broad experience from the Somerville District Court Probation Department, residential programs for individuals with special needs, and Parker Chomerics, a Fortune 500 manufacturer of EMI-shielding gaskets. In 2011, she became one of the few women to complete the demanding Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (SERT) training, with additional certification from the National Association for School Resource Officers (NASRO). Since 2007, Nelson has served as

a Choice Officer, mentoring students in Suffolk County schools and helping prepare the next generation of Choice Officers. Beyond her daily responsibilities, she actively participates in community outreach through events like National Night Out, Toys for Tots, Shop-With-A-Cop, Neighborhood Coffee Hours, and the Boston Area Church League's Red Sox Clinic, where she shares her lifelong love of baseball with local youth. Today, she continues to guide new officers, connect detainees with mental health resources, and approach each day with the same philosophy that has guided her career: an eager willingness to help others.





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

Recognize September's Observations











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

