SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

COMMON GROUND

AUGUST 2026

SCSD SWEARS IN 22 NEW DEPUTY SHERIFFS



LIFE AFTER INCARCERATION: NEW VISION BOARD GROUP





MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY: WOMEN'S PROGRAM CONCLUDES



SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM 2026



SCSD'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2026

Greetings...

and welcome to the August Edition of the Common Ground Newsletter. In this issue, we celebrate and recognize the twenty-two Deputy Sheriffs who were recently sworn in. This milestone marks an important step in their careers as they prepare to serve our communities and work alongside fellow law enforcement agencies. Read more about our Deputy Sheriffs and learn about the important role they play within the Department.

We also highlight some of the therapeutic and reentry-focused programs serving our detainee and incarcerated populations. At the Jail, the five-week "Life After Incarceration: Vision Board Group," program led by Caseworker Rosemary Arias, provides participants with a supportive space to reflect on their goals, envision their futures, and identify the steps they can take to achieve their dreams following release and return to their communities. At the House of Correction, Mothers for Justice and Equality offers "You Matter," a four-week program for the women in our population focused on self-discovery, personal and professional goals, relationships, and preparing for life after incarceration. Both programs culminate in a vision board project that allows participants to bring their goals and aspirations to life.

This issue also features some of this year's Summer Enrichment Program cohort of fifteen students. Hear from three participants who have established strong goals for their futures and learn how the program has encouraged them to take the next step toward their aspirations.

Finally, we recognize our August Officers of the Month, honoring and celebrating two individuals who went above and beyond in the performance of their duties and demonstrated a strong commitment to serving others.

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

~The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department

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SCSD DEPUTIZATION CEREMONY HELD FOR 22 OFFICERS

Recently, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department swore in twenty-two custody staff members as Deputy Sheriffs.

Held at the House of Correction (HOC), the ceremony was presided over by HOC Superintendent Michael Lally, who offered congratulations to participants with special words of appreciation for the members of the group being deputized for the first time.



"As they celebrate this moment in their careers, we're excited for them, and I believe they're truly excited as well," Superintendent Lally said. "They took their own time to go through all of the classes and training. It shows their dedication, and we have great appreciation for them."

For the first time deputies within the group, the ceremony marked both an accomplishment and the beginning



of new opportunities. For Michael Da Silva, who has served with the Department for more than five years, becoming a Deputy Sheriff represents a milestone and the possibility of new career opportunities.

Officer Christopher A'Hearn, a Department member for four years, spoke about his continued commitment to learning and growing throughout his career.

"I'm always looking for new ways to train," he said, adding that being a Deputy Sheriff allows him to support other agencies and contribute wherever needed.

Vaughn Gibson, a twenty-year Department member, shared: "The job is always about learning and adapting. It feels good to be recognized for doing the job."





We wish continued success on the job to all twenty-two officers.

AMONG THOSE DEPUTIZED INCLUDE:

Suffolk County Jail Deputy Sheriffs: Amanual Abate, Shain Day, Clevens Jean, Philippe Joseph, Averill Kennedy, Reginald Lafaille, Luke McCaffrey, and Barboza Oville.

House of Correction Deputy Sheriffs: Christopher A'Hearn, James Campbell, Michael Carbonneau, Robert Carey, Dimitry Cayo, Michael Da Silva, Vaughn Gibson, Kervens Laguerre, Wilson Mejia, Wider Mirville, Kenia Polanco, Khalid Riley, Keith Storlazzi, and Stacey Wood.



LIFE AFTER INCARCERATION: SCSD'S VISION BOARD GROUP



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently introduced Life After Incarceration, a five-week art therapy and expressive arts program designed to help incarcerated individuals clarify their aspirations, boost motivation, and envision a successful future that they can look forward to upon release. Led by Caseworker Rosemary Arias, the program is open to both pretrial and sentenced populations, providing a supportive space for personal reflection and creativity.

Throughout the program, participants are encouraged to identify their strengths and values while breaking larger goals into realistic, achievable steps by exploring options correlated to reintegration, personal growth, family, education, careers, and positive lifestyle changes.

Each week focuses on a different stage that culminates in the creation of their boards. Participants first explore their dreams and set goals, then discuss the steps needed to achieve them. In the third and fourth weeks they begin crafting their vision boards by cutting out uplifting affirmations, images, and words found on magazines and gluing them to it. During the fifth and final week participants complete their projects and have a graduation where they present their vision boards to the class and reflect on lives they hope to accomplish.



By combining creativity with therapeutic reflection, Life After Incarceration gives participants a tangible reminder of the future they want to pursue and helps them develop greater confidence and preparedness for a successful reentry into the community.

VISION BOARD PRESENTATIONS AND CLASS GRADUATION



Michael Jackson: "Music stands out to me. I know the different concepts; speakers, turntable and the different volume of tones. I play the electric guitar and piano. Seeing all this makes me feel good, and I want to start playing when I get out of here. My top 5 life area goals/core values on my vision board are getting a job, enrolling in a gym, continuing to be a gentleman, traveling to California, Africa and Hawaii. These are all important to me so that I live in peace. The beautiful ladies resemble someone who takes care of themselves. I trust that taking care of myself, believing in myself, and being positive, will get me there."



Jhovanni Jackson: "What stands out to me are potential, entrepreneurship and praising Allah. Other 3-5 life areas represented here are working on my career, traveling, hobbies, and having a relationship with wife and daughter in the future. It's important to me because I'm a man of God and a family man, who will be successful in all the goals I'm working towards from now on. A few character traits I am cultivating are remaining calm and humble. I'm becoming a successful, family and God orientated man, who will have an important role in my community. Empowering women, men and children will be an enormous breakthrough. Three actionable steps to work towards my goals are to be more patient, stop doubting myself and research more on my business, stock market and life."



Meshach Duffy: "What immediately stands out to me is the importance of money and food, to live life. I believe delicious food is good for the soul. I hope to one day own a food truck business and am able to serve amazing meals. A few things I will need to do to reach my goal are — stay clean, save money in the bank, and help others. I plan to reach out to Project Place, a great organization that assists with stabilization, career development, case management, and housing."



Kevin Howard-Lee: "What immediately stands out are the topics and positive themes. The feelings I experience when I look at this vision board are excitement and an adrenaline rush. My top 3-5 life areas and or/core values represented here are men's health, money saver, entrepreneur, auto stacker and strength. They are all important to me because they give me strength and aspiration. The character traits I'm cultivating as I work toward these goals are confidence and being calm. The things I can do to move toward these images will be the first step, which is the door step. My plan is to live a clean and sober lifestyle with a safe place to go, an income, and a great support system. The skills I bring to the table are strength, hope and experience."

MOTHERS FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY WOMEN'S COHORT GRADUATES WITH A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



After four weeks of conversation, reflection, and skill-building, the latest women's cohort of Mothers for Justice & Equality's "You Matter" program concluded in July with an opportunity to put their goals into the big picture.

Led by the program's Director of Operations Joanna Yu, the cohort brought together women at the Suffolk County House of Correction for weekly workshops focused on self-discovery, personal and professional goals, relationships, and preparing for life after incarceration. While the program provides practical reentry resources, its foundation begins with a more personal question: "Who are you, and what do you want your life to look like?"

"This class is really kind of a discovery class of who you are," Yu explained. Participants reflected on how their upbringing and past experiences have shaped the trajectories of their lives before considering the values, goals, and choices they want to carry forward. That reflection culminated in the cohort's vision-boarding activity. Participants selected images and words representing areas such as family, education, careers, and their aspirations after release, creating individualized boards they could take with them. According to the program director, the exercise gave participants a way to convey ideas they may have never articulated into something tangible. "Having that vision board, because they'd never done that kind of activity before, really helps them hone down what it is they really want in life," she said. "It just has a purpose and it actually visualizes the direction."

The value of the exercise extends beyond visualization. Research on goal pursuit suggests that imagining a desired future is most useful when it is connected to present circumstances, potential obstacles, and concrete steps for moving forward. A 2021 meta-analysis of 21 studies involving more than 15,000 participants found that mental contrasting paired with implementation intentions, a process of identifying obstacles and developing specific "if-then" plans, had a small-to-moderate positive effect on goal attainment. That mental contrasting has been found to support short-term behavior change when people connect an envisioned future to the realities standing between themselves and that future. That connection between vision and action is central to "You Matter." Participants are encouraged to look past what they want from life to more concretely consider how they will get there and which resources can help. Mothers for Justice & Equality supplement these workshops with a "Coming Home" directory containing information on housing, MassHealth, SNAP, education, and other reentry services.

For one 19-year-old participant, Paris, that practical connection was an invaluable takeaway. After joining at the encouragement of a friend, she said she quickly discovered that the program offered both introspection and information that inspired hope in her rehabilitative journey. "You learn so many [things] that you will never think," she said, adding that the program helped her discover new ways of doing things by learning from other women in the cohort. She also left with a clearer professional goal: cosmetology. More importantly, she said she plans to take the program's resource materials with her after release so she can continue looking for housing, health care, education, and career opportunities. "I'm only 19, so I feel like I still have time to really get my stuff together." Change is possible at any age, but with the right vision and plan of action, Paris is ready to begin that change today.



As the cohort concluded, each participant left with something she could carry beyond the facility: a clearer sense of where she wants to go, the resources that can help her get there, and a visual reminder of the future she is working toward.



SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (SEP) 2026:

Our annual paid internship, the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), welcomed fifteen students who have expressed an interest in careers in law enforcement and the criminal legal system. They joined to gain firsthand experience in the work that the Department and a host of other agencies do.

Launched in 2014 by Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins, the program was designed to create a bridge between our youth and law enforcement to help them understand the field and give students a closer look at the many careers that come with it.

Program participants visit agencies and institutions within Suffolk County, including FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Headquarters, the MBTA Transit Police, Charlestown Division of Boston Municipal Court, the Attorney's General Office, District Attorney's Office, Edward Brooke Courthouse, State Police, U.S. Marshals Service, the State House, Tufts University Police Department, Winthrop Harbormaster, Revere Police and Fire Departments, multiple locations across the SCSD's facilities and training center, among many others.

As part of the program's curriculum, students have the opportunity to learn about various topics, including: mental health, social and racial justice, health & wellness, healthcare, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training, and lectures in civics, Street Law, financial literacy, criminal law and constitutional rights, career planning, and resume writing.

This year, under the leadership of Community Outreach Coordinator Lucretia Goodson, our SEP equipped students with practical life skills and a broader view of the opportunities awaiting them in the criminal justice and legal systems.

Meet some of our students and learn more about their impressive experiences and future aspirations:



Larissa Sariva: A rising junior at Revere High School, Larissa is a motivated student with a strong passion for military service, public safety, and justice. Larissa has participated in Junior ROTC since her freshman year, where she currently holds the rank of Master Sergeant and has developed leadership and discipline while competing in national events. She is also an active member of her school's track program and works part-time. Born in Cambridge to Brazilian parents, Larissa comes from a large, close-knit family that she credits as an important source of support. Her interest in law enforcement began in middle school and has continued to grow through her experiences in JROTC and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Summer Enrichment Program. Through the program, Larissa has particularly valued learning about civics, law, and the importance of understanding the people behind difficult decisions. Looking ahead, she plans to attend college and study criminology while pursuing service in the Army National Guard and continuing ROTC, with the ultimate goal of becoming an officer and pursuing an investigative career with the FBI, U.S. Marshals Service, or a local police department. Larissa describes the Summer Enrichment Program as a "life-changing experience" that strengthened her sense of responsibility, networking connections, public speaking skills, and commitment to a future in law enforcement.



Andrew Chevez: Andrew is a rising senior at Excel Academy Charter High School and a dedicated student leader with a strong passion for law enforcement, community engagement, and public service. A lifelong resident of East Boston and proud Salvadoran-American, Andrew became interested in law enforcement after seeing local and state police officers serving his community, particularly state police on horseback near the beach where he lives. Through the Summer Enrichment Program, he has expanded his understanding of the many paths within law enforcement, gaining exposure to agencies including the Massachusetts State Police, MBTA Police, and Tufts Police and building connections with officers and professionals in the field. Andrew hopes to attend college to study criminology, criminal justice, or a related area of law before pursuing a career as a state or local police officer, where he hopes to engage directly with his community and challenge negative stereotypes through positive interactions and service. Outside the classroom, Andrew is deeply involved in his school and community: he serves

as class president, captain of the cross-country team, vice president and wellness chair of Band of Brothers, and debate. He is also the co-founder of "Connect More," a volunteer initiative through which he and his peers visit their local senior center to spend time with older adults, host holiday celebrations, and play games such as Connect Four. Andrew credits his parents and older siblings with encouraging him to pursue his education, explore his interests, and build his own path. He also works during the summer at an East Boston ice cream shop, saving money for future education expenses and other goals. Through his many leadership, athletic, academic, and service commitments, Andrew has demonstrated a strong commitment to making a positive impact in the world.



Raymond Nunez: Meet Raymond, a rising senior at Fenway High School and lifelong Dorchester resident with a passion for law enforcement, athletics, and community service. His interest in law enforcement began at a young age, inspired in part by his father, a captain with the Suffolk University Police Department, and his own desire to help others while pursuing a career that combines service with the excitement of the field. Before participating in the Summer Enrichment Program, Raymond was considering becoming either a Massachusetts State Trooper or a Boston Police Officer; the program has broadened his perspective by introducing him to additional agencies, including transit policing. He has particularly valued connecting with law enforcement professionals in leadership positions and learning about specialized units, technology, and the diverse responsibilities within different agencies. Raymond has also previously participated in the Boston Police Department's Teen Police Academy, giving him the opportunity to experience another side of law enforcement through physical training, case studies, and college tours. During his free time, Raymond is a lifelong baseball player, the captain of the Madison Park baseball team, and a member of The Base, a nonprofit youth sports program that helps students pursue scholarship opportunities. Looking ahead, Raymond plans to attend college and earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice or business, with aspirations to join a cadet program while pursuing his studies. Raymond credits SEP and the professional connections he has made through it with helping him feel more prepared to enter his senior year and take the next steps in his career.

FALLEN CORPORAL MARTIN NAMED HOC OFFICER OF THE MONTH

SCJ DEPUTY VILGRAIN ALSO RECOGNIZED

This Month, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department honors the service and dedication of House of Correction Corporal Brett Martin, who was tragically killed while assisting a stranded motorist on Interstate 95 in Boxford. When Martin joined the Department back in 2008, he began serving in several roles throughout the facility, most recently working at a security post in the kitchen. Those who worked alongside Martin knew him as someone who cared deeply about others and approached his responsibilities with dedication and professionalism. His final act—stopping to help someone in need—reflected the selflessness and courage he demonstrated throughout his career. Though his passing has been a profound loss for the Department, family members, and friends, Corporal Martin's commitment to service will remain part of his legacy.

At the Suffolk County Jail, Deputy Vilgrain Richemond is also being recognized for his outstanding work ethic, professionalism, and commitment to both his colleagues and the Department. A military veteran, Richemond has served with the Department for over five years and has worked in various areas within the facility, including Transportation and Video Court. He currently serves in the Office of Communications.

"This job can be challenging but enjoyable,' said Deputy Richemond. "It keeps you busy, and you're always adapting to changes and meeting new people from other courts." He takes pride in his hard work, dedication, and commitment. "They reflect the teamwork and support you receive every day," Richemond said, adding a quote from George Bernard Shaw: "People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it."

Jail Superintendent Jose Mojica commended Richemond for consistently going above and beyond, noting: "His reliability, teamwork, and positive attitude make him a valuable asset to the Department."

Together, these two recognitions remind us that service takes many forms. Whether through years of dedicated work or an extraordinary act of selflessness, your excellence has not gone unnoticed.

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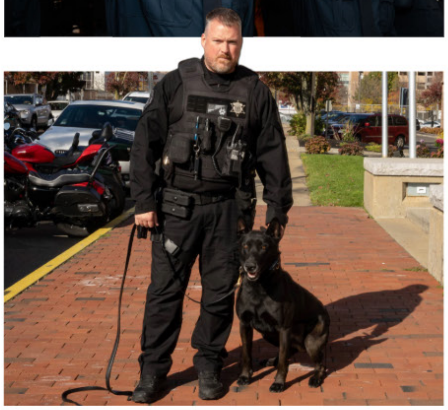
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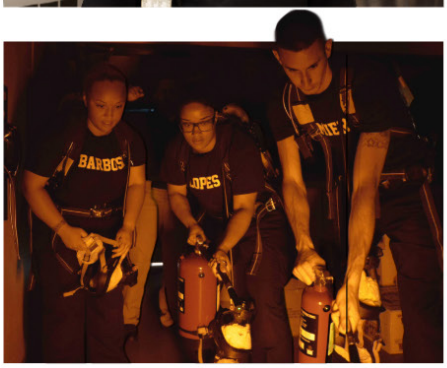
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