



COMMON GROUND

JANUARY 2018 ISSUE



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Sheriff's Statement



As the Year 2018 begins, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the men and women, both custody and non-custody, who work tirelessly every day to help make the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department among the best organizations, not only in Massachusetts, but across the country. I also want to thank the many providers, volunteers, practitioners and concerned citizens

who have continued to work with us to ensure that we are delivering the best quality services and programming possible to those in our care and custody so that they might be better able to provide for themselves and their families upon release.

The many strides that we've made this year, both internally and externally, were only possible because of the commitment, dedication and collective teamwork of our Department and its supporters, and so I thank you for your service from the bottom of my heart.

I wish you and your families a happy and prosperous New Year, and I look forward to continuing our work together in 2018.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



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SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS AND THE DEPARTMENT JOIN THE COMMONWEALTH IN CELEBRATION OF HEROIC CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEES



Deputy Stephen Fiste
13 Year Vet.

Deputy John Amate
15 Year Vet.

Sergeant Nabil Said
17 Year Vet.

Earlier this year, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department celebrated four officers for actions taken above and beyond the call of duty.

During the 20th Annual Correctional Employee of the Year Awards ceremony held at the Massachusetts State House, Sheriff Tompkins and members of the Department joined Governor Charlie Baker; Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito; Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Daniel Bennett; Undersecretary of Criminal Justice Jennifer Queally; and other County Sheriffs, elected officials and corrections professionals in recognizing the exemplary employees who were gathered to receive these prestigious awards. The ceremony, created to celebrate the notable and often heroic actions taken by those working in the field of corrections, honored 45 officials from around the Commonwealth.

Each year, the fourteen County Sheriffs and the Massachusetts Department of Correction nominate correctional employees for their bravery and dedication to public service. A selection committee comprised of leaders from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Department of Correction, the Massachusetts Sheriff's Association, the Massachusetts Correctional Officer Federated Union and designees from the

Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate determine which employees will be honored.

This past year, Deputy John Amate of the Suffolk County House of Correction and former Suffolk County Jail Deputy Joshua Peavey were chosen to receive the Community Service Award and Meritorious Recognition Award, respectively. While on duty with the Department's Community Works Program near South Boston's Day Boulevard, Officer Amate was approached by the driver of a handicapped transportation van who stated that her passenger was choking and in need of immediate assistance. Deputy Amate climbed into the van and calmly provided emergency rescue services to the woman in distress, administering several abdominal thrusts, which eventually dislodged the item that had been obstructing the victim's airway, quite possibly saving the woman's life. Throughout the incident, Deputy Amate relied on his Department training and took control of this life-threatening situation. A fifteen-year veteran of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department at the House of Correction, Amate credited his training and the help of communication staff at the Department for his successful rescue.

"I am grateful that I was there at the right time and place, and I'm grateful for the training that I have," said Deputy Amate,

reflecting on his award.

The second awardee, former Department Deputy Peavey, was off duty and driving home on Storrow Drive when he observed a car that had been flipped on its side and was beginning to emit smoke. Deputy Peavey pulled over and rushed to the scene in an attempt to rescue the passenger trapped in the vehicle. With the assistance of another bystander, Deputy Peavey pulled the man out of the passenger side of the car and carried the driver to safety away from the car, which had the potential to ignite. Deputy Peavey stayed with the driver of the overturned vehicle, who appeared disoriented and possibly under the influence of alcohol, until Massachusetts State Police and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived.

In addition to the two Department employees honored at the official ceremony, Sheriff Tompkins also recognized two officers who were not chosen as award recipients, though their actions were no less heroic.

Deputy Stephen Fiste, a thirteen-year veteran at the Department's Suffolk County Jail, was driving on Lowell Street in Peabody with his family when he witnessed the SUV riding in front of his vehicle swerve into the opposite lane and come to a near-stop. As another SUV pulled in front of the truck to shield

it from oncoming traffic, Deputy Fiste jumped out of his car and raced to the vehicles. The driver of the second SUV – later determined to be the wife of the first driver – had exited her car and was now crying and pounding on the driver’s side window of the first SUV. When Deputy Fiste arrived to the window, it was clear that the driver was having a seizure. While convulsing, the driver of the first SUV had crashed his truck into the vehicle in front of him and his foot stayed pressed against gas pedal as he continued to convulse. Acting quickly, Deputy Fiste smashed the window on the passenger side, opened the door and climbed inside where he managed to take the victim’s foot off the pedal, check for vital signs, and call for an ambulance.

“My training immediately kicked in and I was able to make sure that everyone remained safe,” said Deputy Fiste. “I’m grateful that I was able to assist the victim and that nobody got hurt.”

The other officer receiving recognition from Sheriff Tompkins and the Department was Sergeant Nabil Said, a seventeen-year veteran of the Department at the Suffolk County Jail. Sgt. Said was working on a traffic detail near the Ted Williams Tunnel when he witnessed a hit and run in which a Department of Transportation worker was run over by the offending vehicle.

“The first thing I did was go back to my basic training and called Central Control to request an ambulance and additional assistance,” recalled Sgt. Said. “After that, I followed the driver a mile down the street, stopped him and removed the keys from his vehicle before calling for the



Massachusetts State Police. When a State Trooper arrived, we both facilitated a roadside test and escorted the driver back to the cruiser. The first thing that I did in this incident was refer to my training. There was no need to panic because with the training that we have, we are able to work in all kinds of conditions.”

Extending congratulations to all of the day’s honorees and to those corrections professionals who were nominated but not chosen, Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins also thanked them for going above and beyond their prescribed responsibilities.

“Congratulations to Deputy Amate, former Department Deputy Peavey, all of the awardees and to all of the people who routinely go above and beyond, but who may not be recognized with an award,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “Your efforts and dedication to help facilitate a safe and secure environment through which we can begin the process of rehabilitation,

recovery and reentry for the people remanded to our care and custody is both critical to our success, and applauded by those with an understanding of the job that you do.”

Echoing Sheriff Tompkins’ sentiments during his address at the State House ceremony was another official with particular knowledge about the importance of the work done by corrections professionals.

“The truth is that all of you here today are a huge part of something that we all need to focus on and be proud of,” said Governor Baker. “You provide the security and safety that is so important, which helps to make it possible for many [incarcerated individuals] to find their way back to society. On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the citizens that you keep safe, we are grateful to honor and appreciate the best among the best with these awards.”



SHERIFF TOMPKINS, MAYOR WALSH LAUNCH NEW RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



In March of 2017, Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced the start of a new collaborative program designed to improve the delivery of addiction recovery services to inmates and detainees that extend beyond the walls of incarceration.

The Recovery Partnership is the result of a combined effort between the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services that is designed to support each individual entering the Suffolk County Jail or House of Correction in need of recovery services from substance abuse. The program includes a series of regular recovery panels at the Suffolk County House of Correction and the Suffolk County Jail through which participants in the program are connected to community-based service providers prior to their release, and are guided through the early recovery process, building a successful network of support in the neighborhoods where they live. These recovery panels are held every other week for pre-trial

detainees at the Suffolk County Jail and monthly at the House of Correction for sentenced men. There is a separate monthly panel at the House of Correction for both women who are sentenced and pre-trial.

Joining a group of addiction recovery and health care providers for the kick-off, held at the Suffolk County House of Correction, Mayor Walsh and Sheriff Tompkins introduced the Recovery Partnership and spoke about the intended purpose of the new initiative.

"This Recovery Partnership will mean faster, stronger, and better connections for incarcerated individuals leaving our institutions and reentering their neighborhoods," Sheriff Tompkins said at the time. "In corrections, we know that what we do 'behind the wall' is impactful, but we can only do so much. We know that in order for those individuals in our care to be successful in reentering society they must develop strong, meaningful connections with people in their neighborhoods and communities."

“This program will make our communities and homes safer,” said Mayor Walsh during the event. “This initiative is about giving people second chances, and a fighting chance at recovery. It’s important that we build strong pathways to and from the recovery community, and these pathways must extend to our prisons. I’d like to thank the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department for their important work, and for partnering with us in this recovery effort. We look forward to continuing to grow this partnership.”

Drawing a tangible connection between the need for such programming and the people most affected by it, a video featuring a group of currently incarcerated men and women was shown, detailing the destructive impact of addiction and the difficulty of maneuvering through life without access to effective recovery services.

Considering the swelling numbers of addicted individuals remanded to the care and custody of the Department, the need for these enhanced recovery services and stronger

community connections is clear. Between the months of June and December of 2016 alone, the Department admitted 2,223 individuals who were in need of medical care for substance use at intake. Breaking this number down further, the per-month average during this period reveals that 318 people were admitted in need of treatment, and even more telling, the per-day average of people needing medical care for substance use was 11.

In light of these grave statistics, Sheriff Tompkins spoke about the necessity of joining together against the rising tide of addiction.

“I am so proud to announce this Recovery Partnership with Mayor Walsh and the City of Boston today because it shows our collective desire to work together, our collective agreement to build bridges from inside our institutions out into the community, and our collective rejection of the notion that Boston and Suffolk County can be considered successful without the success of all of our citizens.”





SUFFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES COMMUNITY CONSORTIUM INITIATIVE

In February of 2017, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department Family Matters Program launched the Community Consortium Initiative, a series of meetings for service providers to foster community connected practice with the intention of building resources to serve and strengthen the families of the incarcerated.

The meeting, convened at the Ella J. Baker House in Dorchester, kicked off with welcoming remarks by the Department's Family Matters Program Director Karla Walker.

"We are all here today to discuss our work and look into the intentional partnerships that we can build upon to move the communities we work with forward," said Walker.

The meeting began with introductions of members from 31 service providers, followed by an overview of the Family Matters program.

Family Matters is a voluntary program under the Division of Re-Integration Services at the Suffolk House of Correction that was developed to assist inmates and their families with working toward positive relationships. The issues facing the currently incarcerated upon release are numerous, often confounding, and have a drastic impact on all of the connected relationships. In an effort to assist those in the care and custody of the Department to re-enter society more successfully, the program targets families because of the powerful role that they can play in supporting, guiding and inspiring currently incarcerated individuals upon their release.

Launched in 2015, the program started with an event in which service providers across Boston, Chelsea, Winthrop and Revere came together to discuss how to better forge relationships with community-based partners. Since its inception, the Family Matters Program has evolved from its earlier role as an entity that primarily focused on providing referrals to resources for the families of recently released former offenders.

Through the building of intentional community partnerships, the Family Matters Program hopes to continue to create strong relationships with agencies to deliver services to families before individuals are released. In an effort to build positive rapport, incarcerated individuals at the Suffolk County House of Correction are introduced to a number of community support providers to whom they will later be referred upon their release.

Representatives from Family Matters' primary partners also spoke about the way in which intentional partnerships work, as well as the success that they've had and the opportunities that these partnerships present. Attendees of the meeting then broke out into groups to discuss how to best deliver services through community connected practices. Building off of their collective expertise, members of the Community Consortium generated next steps directed at strengthening the families and communities of Suffolk County.

"I am really proud of this program because we engage our population with hopefulness," said Walker. "Our objective for the program and the Community Consortium is to build upon and strengthen families while an individual is incarcerated, when they are released and beyond."

Reflecting on the last year and the launch of the Family Matters Community Consortium, Walker expressed a sense of pride in the work generated thus far.

"We have some really great success stories that sometimes include small steps toward something really huge, or something really big. If anything, one of the key things I've learned over the last few months is that success looks different for every family. The end goal is not a one size fits all technique because there are all types of family dynamics and a community of organizations working and connecting families. Moving into the next year I'm hoping to be more aware of this as we explore the program more."

SCSD'S RICKY DEVER ADDED TO MASSACHUSETTS LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins commemorated the life and memory of Deputy Sheriff Richard T. Dever during the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation's Annual Ceremony. Sheriff Tompkins and Deputy Sheriff Richard "Ricky" Dever's family were joined with members of the law enforcement community to honor officers who gave their lives while protecting the citizens of the Commonwealth. This annual event is held to honor the memories of law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.



Sheriff Tompkins and members of the Department reflected with surviving family members, fellow officers and community members on the ultimate sacrifice these brave officers made.

"It was with tremendous pride but also sadness that I joined with law enforcement, elected officials and family members to honor the bravery and courage displayed by the men and women remembered today," said Sheriff Tompkins. He continued, stating, "the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Deputy Sheriff Richard T. Dever was recognized today at the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Memorial, which now stands for future generations and visitors to our state."

In the spring of 2017, Dever's name was also added to a memorial on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial displayed with the names of more than 20,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who fall in the line of duty going back to 1791. His name was engraved on the wall and dedicated in a candlelight ceremony where 50 members of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department and his family joined.

SHERIFF TOMPKINS, DEPARTMENT JOIN SHOP WITH A COP EVENT TO SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER TO LOCAL CHILDREN



Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins and members of the Department joined with other members of law enforcement to help bring holiday cheer to more than 300 area youths while fostering a sense of community spirit and collaboration.

Members of the annual “Police Athletic League (PAL) Shop With A Cop, Heroes & Helpers” event for the first time, Sheriff Tompkins and Department officers from AFSCME, Council 93, Local 3967 of the House of Correction and Jail Officers & Employees’ Association of Suffolk County (JOEASC) joined with Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, the Boston Police Department, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Police, Boston EMS (Emergency Medical Services), and other organizations to work with the elves from Target to give each participating child a \$100 shopping spree.

“It was a total blast to be part of this great annual event,” said Sheriff Tompkins. “Seeing the smiles on the faces of not only the children who were shopping, but also on the faces of the family members who brought them was truly heartwarming and indicative of the success of Shop With A Cop’s mission.”

“I want to thank Mayor Walsh and the Boston Police Department for initiating this wonderful event and I want to give my special thanks to the officers from our Department who helped to spread the holiday spirit to all of the night’s participants.”

The event began with a pizza party for youths at the Leahy-Holloran Community Center in Dorchester before participants boarded MBTA buses, which were then led by an escort provided by Boston Police and members of the Sheriff’s Department to the Target store located in the South Bay Mall.



WORK OF INCARCERATED WOMEN FEATURED BY MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE



This year, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's Women's Program Services offered its first session in Pastel Painting under the direction of instructor-artist, Peggy Rambach. Using soft pastel sticks and pencils, inmates learned how to underpaint, blend, shadow, and observe to produce landscape and still life paintings. Participants also discovered that making fine art requires discipline as they completed paintings of quality, skill and beauty by demonstrating their ability to be patient, persevere, and strive for excellence. A collection of the artists' work was featured in a gallery presentation during the Women's Program Services graduation. The second session has since kicked off and the participating students' artwork was featured in Boston City Hall during the fall of 2017.

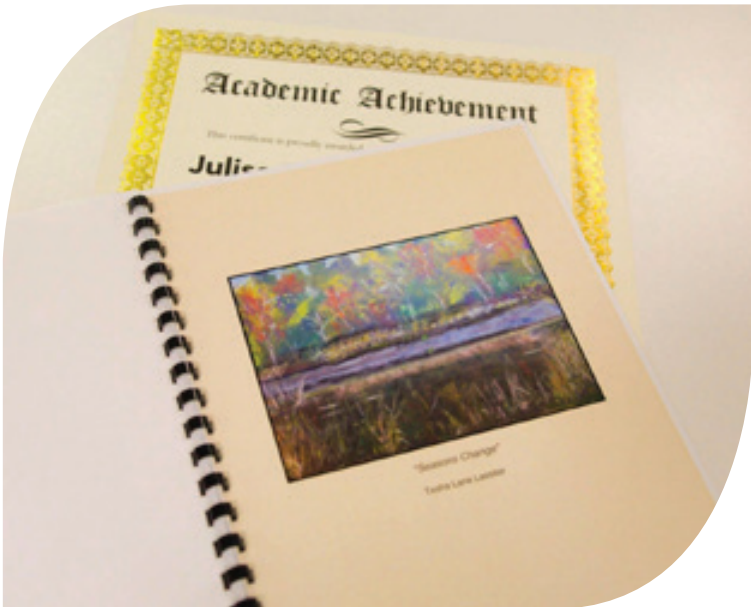
The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department partnered with the Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture to unveil the artwork of six incarcerated women. The fifteen works of art designed by these six women were on display for the month of September. The installation was titled "Women in the Tower: First Works From Participants in the Women's Program Services Course Offering of Pastel Painting in the Suffolk County House of Correction." These six Neighborhood Gallery artists had never touched a pastel before, and the majority reported that they were "terrible at art." Nevertheless, using pastels on paper, the participants completed fifteen paintings for the exhibition.





These paintings represent the vision of the women and are a testament to their courage, optimism and resilience. One artist spoke about her experience of taking the art pastel class as well as having her work featured in the Mayor's Office.

“Some of the takeaways from the pastel painting class have definitely been seeing that you don't have to be artistic, you just really need the will and commitment to do it,” said the artist. “I wanted people who saw this exhibit to know we don't just sit around when we are here [at the House of Correction]. We are taking classes, showing initiative and making big commitments for our futures and this was a great way to show what we do here. I think that sometimes people think we are mischievous, but we are all just souls trying to find our way. I believe that this program shows us that if we put our minds to something, we can most definitely do it. I think we all really appreciated being on display and having the ability to show how we feel. When I go home, I want to share pastel painting with my niece and show her that you don't have to use just colored pencils and crayons to make nice art. You can get your hands dirty and have a lot of fun doing it.”





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NEWSLETTER

SANDY ZAMOR CALIXTE - CHIEF
COLLEEN FONSECA - EDITOR
PETER VAN DELFT - EDITOR
DAVID HILL - PHOTOGRAPHER
VONEL LAMOUR - DESIGNER

SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

PHONE. 617-704-6688

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.SCSDMA.ORG