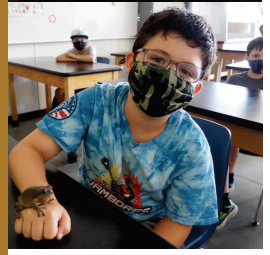


THE ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

2021 Annual Report



Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger



Sheriff's Message



Welcome to the 2021 Essex County Sheriff's Department Annual Report.

2021 was a busy year for us and, like the rest of the world, we still had to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. While we did see some additional cases within our facilities, the pre-cautions and screening/testing protocols we have put in place allowed us to continue our operations and our efforts to better serve those in our custody and the residents of our communities.

We embarked on several new initiatives to help our incarcerated population obtain the necessary supports they need to succeed and thrive upon release. The cornerstone of this effort is our new Supporting Transitions And Reentry (STAR) program. This community-based corrections program is aimed at keeping people out of jail and from ever returning to custody again.

It was an idea borne out of my days as Lynn Police Chief, where too often I would see the same people cycling in and out of the justice system. I knew these individuals needed help, not only in the jail but back in their communities where we've identified vital supports so critical to their rehabilitation. It was just a matter of connecting them. For two years, a team of the brightest and most creative people on our staff sat down to develop this connection program and built out the plans for it during 2021. In early 2022, we opened STAR offices in both Lynn and Lawrence with the help of \$850,000 in federal funds secured by U.S. Congressman Seth Moulton.

Our initiatives to help those already incarcerated also grew and flourished. One program of note is our Opening Avenues to Reentry Success (OARS). This program dedicates specific housing units to those who want to better themselves and take advantage of the numbers of educational and vocational programs we offer. Those participating get several hours of classroom instruction and group programming daily and then take what they learned back to their housing unit where the individuals continue to learn and teach each other. Some of the programming offered includes HiSET preparation, college level classes from Northern Essex Community College and Merrimack College, and peer tutoring programs. We offer individual certifications in OSHA and ServSafe, as well as training in hardscaping, cable wiring, fiber optics, and so much more.

In conclusion, COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on us all. In December 2021, we lost one of our brothers to the pandemic, Deputy Sheriff Anthony Pasquarello. He was a 15-year veteran of our Department, a loving father, and a dutiful son. He was only 37 when COVID took him from us, and our hearts, prayers and support remain with the Pasquarello family. He will be forever remembered and missed.

I would like to thank our staff for such a wonderful job they do every day. I would also like to thank you for your continued support of our Department. It is an honor to serve you.

Kevin F. Coppinger
Sheriff