



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*County of Norfolk*

OFFICE OF THE  
SHERIFF



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**JEROME P. McDERMOTT**  
SHERIFF

Chairperson Anna Mae O'Shea Brooke  
Medfield School Committee  
459 Main Street, Third Floor  
Medfield MA 02052

July 10, 2019

Dear Chairperson O'Shea Brooke:

Please accept my appreciation for all the work you do on behalf of the education of the students of the Medfield Public Schools. I am fully aware of the significant time and effort you put in to your role, so that the students of Medfield receive the best education possible, and I am grateful.

To that end, you will probably agree that the overall development of a child is much more than what they are taught in the classroom. Our kids are making serious life choices earlier than ever before. Incidents of bullying - both cyber and physical, drug abuse - from marijuana to vaping and opioids, as well as the threat of gun violence, we are seeing on a daily basis.

As a father of two teenage girls in the public schools, I know the great work our school counselors are doing to help with these choices and concerns, and the great progress we have seen in addressing sexuality and identity.

Adding to these problems is the common lack of, or unsatisfactory family and peer support system at home. This contributes greatly to the behavior of our kids, as they act out their frustrations on themselves or others, or commit crimes in order to feed their addictions. It is at this point that they fall out of line with the law and in a few years, we see these boys, now men, at the Norfolk County House of Correction.

I am seeking your assistance, because I share your commitment to our kids, especially the increasing number whom are at risk, and we must get to them before it is too late.

As Sheriff of Norfolk County, I want to do more to get to the root of these issues and find new ways to stave off the temptations and limit the challenges our young people have, so that they don't fall by the wayside and end up behind bars or worse.

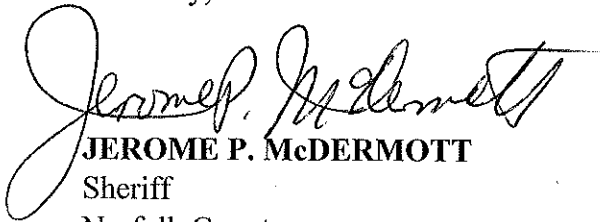
This fall, I plan to convene the Sheriff's Task Force on Juvenile Substance Abuse and Mental Health. This group will meet quarterly at my office, and look at these and all issues that effect our youth, and will advise me, as well as my staff, on steps we can and should be taking to reach this population and also the effectiveness of current programs.

The majority of the members of the Task Force will be comprised of members of school committees from across Norfolk County. For this reason, I kindly and respectfully request that you appoint a member of your Committee to the Task Force. As we plan to convene in September, it is my hope that your appointee's name will be forwarded to me as soon he or she is determined.

Once that member is determined, please contact Greg Casey, my Director of Intergovernmental Relations, at [gcasey@norfolksheriffma.org](mailto:gcasey@norfolksheriffma.org).

Thank you again for all you do for our students, and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



**JEROME P. McDERMOTT**  
Sheriff  
Norfolk County