
Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti
200 West Street, Dedham, MA 02027



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David Weber
Phone: (781) 751-3305
Cell: (781) 760-8107
Email: dweber@norfolksheriffma.org

SHERIFF'S OFFICE EARNS OUTSTANDING MARKS IN NATIONAL AUDIT

DEDHAM, MA, Oct. 26, 2017 - Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti praised his staff for earning 100 percent and 99 percent compliance ratings in a recent three-day inspection by a team of national correctional facility auditors who will recommend that the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office should once again be accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA).

"Residents of Norfolk County can be very proud of the men and women of the Norfolk Sheriff's Office, whose professionalism and attention to detail earned them a 100 percent compliance rating on 55 mandatory standards checked by the ACA and a 99 percent rating among the 298 non-mandatory standards the auditors looked at," Sheriff Bellotti said.

Nancy Bailey, a former Rhode Island corrections official who led the audit team, said "the only three standards you were in non-compliance with dealt with space issues, which would have required you to knock down walls. So you virtually met every standard."

The audit team, which included David Peek and Ernest Umunna, both retired corrections officials from Georgia, was especially complimentary about the Norfolk Sheriff's Office staff's ability to communicate effectively with the inmates at the Dedham house of correction. The auditors spoke with the men incarcerated at the jail to get their impressions about the conditions and the way they are treated by the officers and staff.

"This is the first audit I have done where I did not hear one negative comment from the offenders," Peek said. "The inmates say they feel safe and are treated with respect."

Founded in 1870, the ACA is the nation's oldest professional organization pertaining to corrections. The ACA promotes the highest ideals and best practices in corrections. Compliance with the association's standards is voluntary, but agencies such as the Norfolk Sheriff's Office that choose to comply are subject to rigorous audits

every three years in order to earn and keep their ACA accreditation.

"We find it very valuable to measure the Norfolk Sheriff's Office against other correctional agencies and facilities all across the United States," Sheriff Bellotti said. "Every time the auditors come in to inspect our operation, the men and women on this staff impress them immensely. They impress me every day."

###