**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR INFORMATION:**

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**ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT GRADUATES 23 CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS FROM BASIC TRAINING ACADEMY**

*Haverhill, Massachusetts, Dec. 7, 2018…* Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger administered the oath to 23 new Correctional Officers of the Essex County Sheriff’s Department (ECSD) at the Basic Training Academy graduation ceremony held at Northern Essex Community College (NECC) on December 7. The rigorous, 12-week Basic Training Academy on the campus of NECC is the final phase of the process to become a Correctional Officer. The successful graduates, who come from communities throughout Essex County, will now be assigned full-time positions at ECSD run facilities.

“Comprehensive training is the key to excellence and effectiveness in corrections at every level. We have designed a very demanding training program for recruits to become proficient in many critical areas. Their training will continue throughout their work at the Sheriff’s Department as we are committed to building and maintaining a strong, professional team. We look forward to having our new Correctional Officers become an important part of that team,” said Sheriff Coppinger.

“Congratulations and welcome to the rank and file of the Essex County Sheriff’s Department. For over 300 years, the Essex County Sheriff’s Department has served the County of Essex and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A heritage which continues with you, the graduating class, 18-02. Honor and tradition, history, and integrity of the past and present members of the Department by striving to be the professional you are capable of. I am enthusiastic to be working with each and every one of you.” Said Sheriff Coppinger.

NECC President Lane Glenn attended the ceremony and spoke about the mutually beneficial partnership between the ECSD and NECC to provide a location for ECSD’s Basic Training Academy. A large percentage of law enforcement professionals receive their career related education from community colleges. NECC also offers courses for preparation and/or advancement in corrections careers.

Many proud family and friends of the male and female graduates attended the ceremony. A memorable moment for each new Corrections Officer was when their hard-earned badge was pinned on their new uniform for the first time by a special person in their life.

The new Correctional Officers are: Michael Bentley, Colin Bode, Nicholas Bona, Ashley Brunelle, Dennis Castro, Ryan Danahey, Joshua DeBarros, Paul DeCoste, Ryan Gabriel, Tyler Green, Blake Hery, Matthew Higgins Jr., Joshua Lavoie, Shawn Moniz, Anthony Montes, Jose Murcia, Ryan Smith, Sokhoeun Soun, Bhuc Tu, Bryan Wagner, Yesenia Winters, Antony Yan, Michael Zizzo.

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