



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



KENNETH GREEN
Acting Chief of Police

Committed to Excellence - State and Nationally Accredited

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express our endorsement of Strategies for Youth (SFY), which provided us with its *Policing the Teen Brain* training for patrol officers in 2004 and 2005. The founder of SFY, Lisa Thurau, first sued us. Then she brought the training to us. We have never been the same.

At the time of the suit, we had a zero tolerance policy that led to arrests of over 650 youth in 1999; 10 years later, our annual arrests were down to 74. That's because our Officers had never been trained to work with youth. The training occurred 10 years ago but it impacts us to this day because it changed how we think about working with youth.

Thanks to the training, we embraced new approaches to policing youth including STOPWATCH program which helped reduced youth disorder at subway stops that were never built to hold the numbers of youth they must hold. It also led to creation of TRUANCYWATCH which helped us reduce the number of truant youth hanging out on the trains. Our advocacy with support from SFY led to the creation of a school re-engagement center for youth teetering on the edge of dropping out.

As a Patrolman, I developed the idea of informing youth about the consequences of arrest and court involvement. SFY turned this into the THINK ABOUT IT FIRST card which is also a way for Officers to counsel youth to avoid many pitfalls that have a long term impact on their futures. This card is being replicated around the country as a way of both informing youth and giving police an ice breaker conversation tool.

Today in Boston, the MBTA Transit Police is looked to as the leaders when it comes to working with youth. Our work with youth has won a national award and been promoted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

We continue to work with SFY as they develop new materials to help police work with youth to show them what proactive, caring police/youth relationships look like.

I'd be happy to discuss the partnership we have developed with SFY with you in the future.

Regards,

KENNETH GREEN
Acting Chief

240 Southamption Street • Boston • Massachusetts 02118

Business Phone: (617) 222-1100

Fax: (617) 222-1035

Emergency Phone: (617) 222-1212