



MICHAEL G. BELLOTTI

NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECOGNIZED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEDHAM, March 24, 2015 – Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti praised his staff after recently being chosen as one of 22 correctional agencies across the country to receive a grant for implementation of a law passed by Congress to make jails and prisons safer.

Congress passed the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in 2003, but it took federal officials 10 years to draft regulations that will effectively carry out the law's objective, which is to wipe out sexual assaults among inmates by improving reporting and investigative procedures.

"This grant reflects the extensive work we have done to be on the leading edge of implementation of the law, and we're honored to be recognized by the United States Department of Justice," Sheriff Bellotti said.

The grant of \$250,000 is to be used for continuing training of staff and education of inmates. An outside vendor will be hired to act as a third-party adviser to consult with inmates reporting an assault.

The Department of Justice will be sending auditors to all correctional facilities throughout the country to ensure compliance. The auditors are expected to visit the Norfolk County Correctional Center in late spring or summer.

"It is always our aim to run an absolutely safe and secure facility," Sheriff Bellotti said. "PREA is a powerful tool toward accomplishing that goal."