



MICHAEL G. BELLOTTI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERIFF BELLOTTI'S PROGRAM EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

DEDHAM, MA, August 25, 2015 – The American Correctional Association (ACA) recently conferred its accreditation on the Norfolk Sheriff's Office's electronic incarceration program, which serves as an important component in the effective reentry of inmates back into their communities at the end of their jail sentences.

It was the fourth time the Norfolk Sheriff's Office has earned ACA accreditation for its electronic incarceration program, and it has received 100 percent compliance scores all four times.

"Earning the ACA accreditation is very important to us," Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti said, "because it gives us the chance to measure ourselves against the best in the nation. We find it instructive to hear from the national auditors, who are the tops in the corrections field from all over the United States."

The electronic incarceration program involves inmates wearing an electronic ankle bracelet during home confinement as an option to being locked up in jail. Inmates are carefully chosen for the program, usually during the last segment of their incarceration at the jail.

The bracelet carries GPS technology that allows Norfolk Sheriff's Office staff members to track the inmates at all times. In certain circumstances, inmates are allowed to work at a job during prescribed hours and then return home. Other allowances – such as for medical appointments and meetings with substance abuse counselors – can also be made.

"The electronic incarceration program gives us the flexibility to monitor the inmates while preparing them for their return to their communities at the end of their sentence," Sheriff Bellotti said. "In this way, we get them moving down the right track while we still have the ability to positively influence them."