



# MICHAEL G. BELLOTTI

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## NORFOLK COUNTY SHERIFF

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NORFOLK SHERIFF LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO CURB DRUG ABUSE

DEDHAM, MA, Dec. 17, 2014 – Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti has begun a new program to help inmates stay clean and sober after their release from jail.

The program involves the inmates being injected with the pharmaceutical drug, Vivitrol, which blocks the brain's receptors to opiate drugs and alcohol, preventing an abuser from feeling their effects.

"During their incarceration, drug abusers go through detox. Many are clean and sober for the first time in many years. They feel healthy again while they are with us," Sheriff Bellotti said. "The object of this program is to keep them from backsliding when they wrap up their sentences and are released back into the community. That is when they are most vulnerable. That is when the temptation is greatest."

If an inmate agrees to participate in the program, he receives a Vivitrol injection shortly before his release back into the community. Vivitrol blocks the intoxicating effects of opiate drugs such as heroin and Oxycontin. The inmate must also agree to attend counseling sessions to support the treatment.

The injection last for four weeks, after which he can receive another dose of Vivitrol.

"We understand this is not going to end the scourge of drug addiction, but other agencies have had success with this program, and we believe it can be positive force," Sheriff Bellotti said. "If it works as we hope, it will keep many inmates from reoffending and therefore, stop the revolving door cycle of crime. The whole point of this is to make our communities safer."