

Sheriff Koutoujian assigns inmate work crew to Stoneham

Assisting with Housing Authority

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian assigned an inmate work crew to the Housing Authority in Stoneham from February 6th to February 10th.

The work crew will be assisting the authority in various painting and maintenance projects. The project will save Lowell an estimated \$7,500 dollars.

The inmate work crew is part of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Community Work Program, which provides free labor via non-violent inmates to public buildings and organizations. Under the supervision of correctional officers, the program teaches inmates the value of a hard days work while saving taxpayer money. Inmates involved in the program are from the minimum security facility at the Middlesex House of Correction in Billerica. They

go through a rigorous screening process and case-worker review to ensure communities the safest, most trustworthy workers available. All inmates classified as eligible for this program are nearing the end of their sentence. Work projects do not displace any public or private employees, nor do they interfere with union or the public bidding processes.

On average, the Community Work Program saves Middlesex County communities a combined

\$1 million a year.

"Strong community partnerships help address unique public safety situations with unique public safety solutions," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "Our inmates learn the value of a hard days work and help carry the financial burden that is hindering so many municipalities."

