

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Middlesex Sheriff's Office

Peter J. Koutoujian Sheriff

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## Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian Addresses Wilmington Rotary Club

Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian addressed members and guests of the Wilmington Rotary Club on Wednesday, February 25, providing an overview of the office and re-entry programs for inmates.

The Sheriff spoke about the history and mission of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office dating to 1692, and explained efforts to address the underlying factors that can contribute to criminal activity, including mental health and substance abuse problems, as well as lack of education. The Middlesex Sheriff's Office strives to help inmates address these issues through its Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) – recognized by the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) as a national mentor host site – as well as educational and vocational programs, including a successful culinary arts class.

"I want to thank the Wilmington Rotary Club for the opportunity to speak about the role the Middlesex Sheriff's Office plays in the public safety," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "It's important that we continue to have these kinds of conversations to inform the public about our efforts to help inmates return to the community healthier and more prepared to be productive citizens than when they were incarcerated."

Thursday's visit was the Sheriff's second to Wilmington in less than a month. On February 3, inmates participating in the Community Work Program (CWP) assisted the Wilmington Building Department with snow removal at the senior center.

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