

Officer Christine Italiano (Ret.) Stow Police Department & Massachusetts Department of Corrections Cape Coral, FL

After graduating from the Worcester Police Academy and the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Academy, Italiano worked for nearly two decades as a police officer and corrections officer. She spent time as a rape investigator, a D.A.R.E. program officer, and an undercover narcotics officer. During the years she worked inside prisons, she was on the extraction team regularly and supervised a work crew of six. She was also elected a Constable in the Town of

Hudson for two terms.

At the beginning of her career she was an enthusiastic supporter of the War on Drugs, but hard experience showed her the wrong people were being penalized. She was tasked with guarding young girls who gang leaders would force to hold their drugs. If and when the girls were caught, they were sentenced to a mandatory minimum of 10 years while the men who manipulated them remained on the street, finding new girls to exploit.

Italiano is a firm believer in educating people, especially children, about the dangers of all drugs and that the prohibitionist approach, contrary to its stated purpose, actually hurts our ability to keep kids safe. She advocates for expanded treatment options for addiction instead of incarceration.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 150 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews...

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