The MARRC (Mentoring and Restoring Relationships with Cops) Initiative was developed as a community service activity for the students in the CHOICES (Choosing Honor, Opportunity, Integrity, Character, Excellence and Service) Program, to provide an opportunity to meet and correspond with law enforcement officers. CHOICES is a specialized program for students demonstrating challenging behaviors, located in eleven schools throughout the district, ranging from primary through middle school grades. The CHOICES program attempts to develop students' sense of self-control, decrease student truancy in older students, and reduce disciplinary referrals. It also seeks to form home/school and community partnerships to increase the level of support available to students and allow them to engage in community service.

The MARRC Initiative is a partnership with the Special Education Department, the Jersey City Police Department and the Hudson County Sheriff's Office, where students are paired with volunteer law enforcement officers to engage in weekly/bi-weekly letter exchange. The students and officers will be introduced in person after completing their correspondence at a special event coordinated by the Special Education Department. Additionally, the CHOICES classes are visited periodically by officers from the Community Relations Unit to discuss issues including bullying, internet safety, conflict management, and other pertinent issues.

The MARRC Initiative aims to reduce the social distance between law enforcement and at-risk students, while fostering an understanding of each other in order to engage and improve community relationships. The program also seeks to improve students' academic skills in Language Arts, build social skills and confidence.

The MARRC Initiative is dedicated to the memory of Detective MarcAnthony DiNardo, of the JCPD Emergency Services Unit (E.O.W. 7/21/09). Detective DiNardo was a Jersey City native who attended elementary school at the former P.S. 17 which was renamed in his honor, the MarcAnthony DiNardo School- P.S. 23 Annex, in 2011. He was an exemplary police officer and proud community member. The MARRC Initiative continues Detective DiNardo's legacy of dedication and service to the community.

For more information regarding the MARRC Initiative, please contact CHOICES Lead Psychologist, Lynette Chiorazzi-DiNardo at ldinardo@jcboe.org or the Community Relations Officer assigned to the corresponding CHOICES classroom as indicated below.

P.O. Melissa Sarmiento **(201) 547-5743** **(North Community Relations)**
MS 7, PS 6, & PS 8
P.O. Dina Lionakis **(201) 547-5470** **(East Community Relations)**
PS 5 & MS 4
P.O. Donna Viola **(201) 547-5446** **(West District Community Relations)**
PS 17
P.O. Vanessa Lamboy-Wojtowicz **(201) 547-5455** **(South District Community Relations)**
PS 34 & PS 40
Det. Tory Carter **(201) 915-1300 X7037** **(Hudson County Sheriff's Community Relations)**
PS 25, PS 37, & PS 15