



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF BAYONNE

630 AVENUE C • BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002-3898
TEL. (201) 858-6010 • FAX (201) 436-2413

JAMES DAVIS, *MAYOR*



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For immediate release:

Bayonne: Eight New Police Officers Sworn In

On June 13, at a ceremony in the City Council Chambers, eight new police officers were sworn in to the Bayonne Police Department. Police Chief Robert Geisler welcomed the new recruits to what he called “the best job in the world.” Chief Geisler said the new officers have “a front-row seat to life.” He advised them “to treat others as you would want to be treated.”

Public Safety Director Robert Kubert noted that the new officers received their basic training at the police academy. He said they would receive additional education from other officers. Director Kubert pointed out that their police careers would bring them into contact with thousands of people. He thanked Mayor Davis and the City Council for supporting the Police and Fire Departments’ needs for personnel and equipment.

Council Member At-Large Loyad Booker, a retired police officer, noted that the new officers “worked hard to get here.” They passed competitive civil service exams and underwent twenty-one weeks of training. He called them “the best of the best,” and said they now have “a very serious job.”

Second Ward Council Member Jacqueline Weimmer asked the new police to remember that their badges “symbolize justice, safety, and security.” She called their ceremony “a significant milestone.”

Captain Eric Amato read out brief biographies of the new officers:

Police Officer Alan Velasco was educated at High Tech High School. He is pursuing a degree in Accounting at Seton Hall University.

Police Officer Ashleigh Newman is a graduate of Bayonne High School and St. Peter’s University, where she earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice.

Police Officer Richard Bukowski is an alumnus of Bayonne High School and is continuing his education at Rutgers University.

Police Officer Brian Cotter is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He is continuing his education at Caldwell University.

Police Officer Octavio Cordova is an alumnus of Connections Academy School. He continued his education at Bergen County Community College with a focus on Criminal Justice.

Police Officer Christopher Roeheny is a graduate of County Prep. He was the Lead Security Officer at Bayonne Medical Center before becoming a police officer.

Police Officer Aboubacar Diawara is a graduate of Bayonne High School. He continued his education at New Jersey City University where he pursued a major in Criminal Justice. Before joining the Bayonne Police Department, he served as a Hudson County Corrections Officer for four years.

Police Officer Alex Czerwienski is an alumnus of Bayonne High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at Seton Hall University.

At the ceremony, the entrance procession was led by the Bayonne Police Honor Guard. The Bayonne Police Pipes and Drums played *The Minstrel Boy*, *Scotland the Brave*, and *Amazing Grace*. Rev. John Fencik of St. Mary's Orthodox Church offered the invocation and the benediction. City Clerk Madelene Medina administered the oath of office to the new police officers.