



## NEWS RELEASE

April 4, 2022

### **New Officers Join The Bernardsville Police Department**

Police Chief Kevin Valentine announced the appointment of two new officers to the department on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The new officers fill vacancies created by recent retirements from the department and restores the departments staffing level to its authorized strength of 20 regular police officers. Both officers will begin their state mandated agency training on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Tyler Schwartz, is 29 years old and currently resides in Stanhope, New Jersey. He was most recently employed as a Police Officer with the Chester Police Department in Morris County for the last three years. Ptl. Schwartz graduated from Lenape Valley High School in Stanhope and possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from East Stroudsburg University. He received his basic police training at the Ocean County Police Academy and is a fully certified police officer from the New Jersey State Police Training Commission. Officer Schwartz will start at an annual salary of \$54,795.

Officer Christopher LaPorta is 21 years old and currently resides in Morganville, New Jersey. He was most recently employed with the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department where he worked as a Special Law Enforcement Officer II. Officer LaPorta graduated from Marlboro High School and attended Brookdale Community College where he studied Criminal Justice. He previously attended the Ocean County Police Academy. Officer LaPorta will start at an annual salary of \$50,536.

Chief Valentine said that “both officers are a welcome addition to the Bernardsville Police Department. We are excited for them to join our ranks as their previous training and experience will greatly benefit our community. The department has hired four new officers over the last five months in an effort to ensure adequate staffing and that we continue to provide high quality police services into the future”. Chief Valentine acknowledged Mayor Canose and the members of the Borough Council for supporting efforts to maintain an adequately staffed police department required to ensure public safety services to residents of Bernardsville.

Date: April 4, 2022

For information contact Chief Kevin Valentine, 908-766-0037