

## PRESS RELEASE



### Lawrence Township Police Department

2211 Lawrence Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

**Kevin Reading, Interim Chief of Police**

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**Police Chief Kevin Reading announces appointment of Class 1 Elwood Dasher as the Police Department's full-time Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coordinator to assist Police Officers.**



Left to Right (Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Chief Brian Kiely, Lawrence Police Class 1 Elwood Dasher, Mercer County Prosecutor Janetta D. Marbrey, and Lawrence Police Chief Kevin Reading)

**Lawrence Township, NJ** — Interim Chief of Police Kevin Reading is proud to announce the appointment of Class I Officer Elwood Dasher as the Lawrence Township Police Department's official Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coordinator as well as the Arrive Together Program Liaison, expanding the department's commitment to compassionate, community-centered responses to mental health and substance abuse related calls for service.

\*\*\*\* As the department's designated coordinator, Officer Dasher will serve as the bridge between responding police officers and mental health / substance abuse agencies. **Dasher will help coordinate resources for individuals and families during Police Officer field responses. Dasher will assist with training efforts, outreach events, and enhance our ongoing communication with our partnerships.** Officer Dasher will be working closely with partners in the Township of Lawrence

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including the Health Department, Capital Health Systems Crisis, Prevention Coalition of Mercer County (Mercer Council on Alcohol and Drug Addiction), Phoenix Mental Health & Behavioral Health Center, Oaks Integrated Care, and High Focus Treatment Center. \*\*\*\*

The Arrive Together initiative—piloted by the **New Jersey Office of the Attorney General** - pairs law enforcement officers with mental health professionals to jointly respond to mental health crises. The program is designed to ensure that officers and clinicians “Arrive Together,” providing safer, more supportive outcomes for individuals in crisis while improving community trust and reducing unnecessary use-of-force encounters.

Following this program’s expansion, the **Lawrence Township Police Department** signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the **Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office** and **Capital Health**, officially authorizing the township’s participation in Arrive Together.

Officer Dasher brings extensive mental health, crisis-response, and community-support training to the role, including:

*Autism 101, Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Response Team Training, Innovative Harm Reduction Strategies, Motivational Interviewing, The Neuroscience of Addiction, NJPN Up and Downstream Approaches, Advocacy 101 for Black Communities, Crisis Intervention Training, Depression and Anxiety in the Perinatal Population, Heroes for Hope: Suicide Prevention, Mindfulness for Recovery Support Professionals, Mindfulness Training for Addiction Professionals, Peer Ethics, PTSD and Substance Use Disorders, Solutions Not Silos, Talking with Voices – Novel Treatment Strategy, Transforming Addiction*

“Lawrence Township is fortunate to have Officer Dasher in this critical role,” said Interim Chief Kevin Reading. “His training, compassion, and dedication will strengthen our ability to safely and effectively support individuals experiencing mental health crises and substance abuse. We look forward to the positive impact this program will bring to our community.”

“The ARRIVE Together program has transformed the way law enforcement approaches mental health in Mercer County and throughout the state,” Mercer County Prosecutor Janetta D. Marbrey said. “I commend Lawrence Township for recognizing its magnitude and supporting its efforts with a full-time liaison, and I look forward to continuing this important work to protect the safety and well-being of our residents.”

The Lawrence Township Police Department remains committed to enhancing public safety through innovation, empathy, and strong community partnerships.

IF ANY RESIDENT IS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE LAWRENCE  
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

(EMERGENCY 9-1-1) (NON-EMERGENCY 609-896-1111).