

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **Jackson Township Welcomes Eight New Police Officers**

**JACKSON TOWNSHIP, N.J., May 5th** – Eight new Jackson Township police officers were sworn in and formally welcomed to their new roles and duties by township officials, family members and members of the public at the township council meeting on April 12th.

Jackson Township Chief of Police Matthew Kunz formally introduced the new officers to Mayor Michael Reina and members of the township council. Kunz also thanked Mayor Reina, council members and the township administration for “your proactive commitment to not only replace retiring officers, but in growing the department to serve the growing township, which is seeing an increase in building and residents.”

“On behalf of the entire township council and township administration, we wish our new officers all the best for rewarding and safe careers in law enforcement careers,” Mayor Reina said. “And we thank you for your dedication and service to Jackson Township.”



Back, left to right: Jackson Township Council members: Steve Chisholm Jr., Andrew Kern, Council President Martin Flemming, Alex Sauickie and Nino Borrelli. Front, left to right: Newly-appointed Jackson Township Officers Reale, Cilento, DeJesus, Zak, Fahnholz, Egan, Ringle and Rodina, joined by Police Chief Kunz



Left to right: Newly-appointed Jackson Township Officers Reale, Cilento, DeJesus, Zak, Egan, Ringle, Fahnholz and Rodina, joined by Police Chief Kunz

The new officers are:

**Kayla Reale, badge number 334:** Reale is a longtime resident of Jackson and a 2013 graduate of Jackson Memorial High School. She graduated from Ocean County College in 2015 and then from Kean University in 2017. Most recently, Reale worked as a vet tech in Howell and in retail at the Jackson Premium Outlets. Reale will be attending the Basic Police Class at the Ocean County Police Academy, which begins at the end of April.

**Matthew Cilento, badge number 335:** A longtime resident of Jackson and a 2014 graduate of Jackson Liberty High School, Cilento is currently an active member of the United States Army Reserve. He graduated the Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) II class at the Ocean County Police Academy in 2018 and served as a SLEO II with the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department. He was hired as a SLEO II officer with the Jackson Police Department in March 2019 and has served in that position until being appointed as a full-time officer. Cilento will be attending the waiver class at the Ocean County Police Academy to obtain his full police certification.

**David DeJesus, badge number 336:** Also a longtime resident of Jackson and a 2017 graduate of Jackson Memorial High School, DeJesus attended Towson University and Kean University. He graduated from the SLEO II class at the Ocean County Police Academy in 2020 and served as a SLEO II officer with the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department and the Lambertville Police Department before being hired as a SLEO II with the Jackson Police Department in March 2021. He has served in that position until being appointed as a full-time officer. DeJesus will be attending the waiver class at the Ocean County Police Academy to obtain his full police certification.

**Michael Zak badge 337:** Zak is a longtime resident of Jackson and a 2016 graduate of Jackson Liberty High School. He graduated from Stockton University in 2020 with a degree in criminal justice. He graduated from the SLEO I class at the Monmouth County Police Academy in 2019 and from the SLEO II class at the Monmouth Police Academy in 2021 and worked as a SLEO I and SLEO II with the Deal Police Department until being hired by Jackson. Zak will be attending the waiver class at the Ocean County Police Academy to obtain his full police certification.

**Riley Fahnholz, badge 338:** Fahnholz, a longtime Jackson resident and a 2019 graduate of Jackson Liberty High School, graduated from Ocean County College in 2021 with a degree in applied science. Most recently, he was employed by Allied Security Company. Fahnholz will be attending the Basic Police Class at the Ocean County Police Academy which begins at the end of April.

Additionally, the following officers were hired through the newly-enacted alternate route process, which is legislation that permits a civil service exam exemption for current police officers who have successfully completed police academy training, as approved by the New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC). This allows agencies in the state to consider police officers who are already trained and experienced for selection.

**Kenneth Egan, badge 339:** A resident of Manahawkin and a 2005 graduate of Manchester Township High School, Egan attended Ocean County College. He graduated from the SLEO II class at the Ocean County Police Academy in 2008 and served as a SLEO II for the Seaside Park Police Department and Asbury Park Police Department. He graduated from the Camden County Police Academy in 2014 and has served as a police officer with the Camden County Police Department since that time. While there, he has served in the patrol division, neighborhood response unit, criminal suppression team, detective bureau, auto theft unit task force and on an ATF task force investigating violent crimes involving firearms. Egan's most recent assignment with the detective bureau was as a member of the shooting response team. After completing in service training, Egan will enter the field training program and then be assigned to a patrol squad.

**Anthony Ringle, badge 340:** Ringle is a resident of Lanoka Harbor and a 2003 graduate of the Lacey Township High School. He attended Delaware Valley College and Ocean County College. He graduated from the Basic Police Class at the Ocean County Police Academy in 2006 and worked as a SLEO I and SLEO II with the Seaside Heights Police Department before being hired as a full-time officer with the Island Heights Police Department in 2007. In 2016, Ringle was hired as a full-time police officer with the Plumsted Police Department, where he most recently served as a detective. He also served the department as a field training officer, humane law enforcement officer, internal affairs investigator and oversaw the department's body-worn camera program. After completing in service training, Ringle will enter the field training program and then be assigned to a patrol squad.

**Zachery Rodina, badge 341:** A resident of Brick and a 2008 graduate of Brick High School, Rodina attended Ocean County Vocational School and POST University, and also worked as an electrician. He graduated from the SLEO II class at the Ocean County Police Academy in 2018 and then also the Basic Waiver Class at the Ocean County Police Academy in 2019, where he received his police certification. He worked as a SLEO II for the Point Pleasant

Beach Police Department from 2017-2018 and as an SLEO II for the Howell Police Department from 2018-2019. He was hired as a full-time police officer with the Pemberton Police Department in 2019 and then by the Eastampton Township Police Department in 2020, where he served as a patrol officer until being hired by Jackson. After completing in service training, Officer Rodina will enter the field training program and then be assigned to a patrol squad.

#### **About Jackson Township**

Jackson Township is a growing, suburban community that offers an ideal environment for families and businesses to grow and prosper. Covering over 100 square miles, Jackson Township is the fourth largest municipality, as measured by area, in the state of New Jersey, and is home to just 60,000 residents. The township boasts an excellent public school system and first-rate recreational facilities, including newly renovated parks and athletic fields. Situated in beautiful Ocean County, N.J., Jackson is located within a short drive from the Jersey Shore and about an hour's drive to New York City or Philadelphia. The township was incorporated in 1844. Visit Jackson Township's website at [www.jacksonwpnj.net](http://www.jacksonwpnj.net) for more information.