

**DEPARTMENT of
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
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For Immediate Release

May 13, 2020

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**VIDEO: 6th Precinct Executive Officer Lieutenant Hector Arocho
Released from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Today**

***Heroic Newark Beth Israel Medical Center Staff Helps
24-Year Police Veteran Recover from COVID-19***

Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka and Public Safety Director Anthony F. Ambrose announce the release of 6th Precinct Executive Officer Hector Arocho, 51, today from Newark Beth Israel Medical Center after nearly two weeks of treatment due to COVID-19 symptoms.

“Today is a day we can smile in celebration of this victory over Coronavirus while we continue praying for our brothers and sisters who are still battling, and for the families of those we lost,” Director Ambrose said. “We had over 200 public safety employees, including 175 police officers, affected by COVID-19. We lost four, and 171 made it. Lt. Arocho is very lucky.”

Lt. Arocho began developing COVID-like symptoms at the end of April and experienced breathing difficulties days later. A wellness check by 6th Precinct Commander Captain L. Douglas resulted in Arocho being taken to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, where he was admitted on May 2nd.

“This was the smartest decision I ever made,” Lt. Arocho said of going to the hospital and receiving its excellent care over the past two weeks. He was released today, receiving a full first responder send-off amid cheers and applause by the hospital’s medical staff and led out in a wheelchair by the medical center’s CEO Darrell K. Terry, Sr.

Applauding back at the staff for the care they provided, Lt. Arocho was escorted home to his wife and a family of five children and two grandchildren by members of the Newark Police Division’s Motorcycle Unit and other vehicles.

Lt. Arocho joined the Newark Police Division in 1996 after serving four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. He successfully climbed the ranks, becoming a lieutenant in 2016. Currently he serves as Executive Officer at the 6th Precinct, overseeing day-to-day operations and managing precinct staff.

“We are grateful that our brother has recovered, and we look forward to his return to work as soon as the doctors say he’s ready,” Director Ambrose added.



Lieutenant Hector Arocho