

**DEPARTMENT of
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION**



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Newark Police Division Names LGBTQ Community Liaison

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara announced today that Detective Brian Holmes will serve as the LGBTQ Community Liaison, a position that supports the police division's ongoing efforts to foster a strong relationship with the LGBTQ Community.

In this role, Holmes will collaborate with the LGBTQ Community on events, discuss issues impacting its people and monitor the division's response to LGBTQ-related crimes. He will also, establish a support group for LGBT officers and connect victims with social services.

"As Public Safety Director, I think it's critical for the Newark Police Division to have trust and a meaningful rapport with the LGBTQ Community, so they know that we are on the same page about concerns they may have," Director O'Hara said. "The NPD is committed to strengthening our relationships with all members of our community, particularly those who may have felt disenfranchised. And the NPD will continue to investigate any and all acts of bias-motivated crime, including crimes committed on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

Detective Holmes will attend LGBTQ community meetings, speak with victims of suspected biased crime, and establish relationships with organizations throughout the city. His assignment today coincides with International Transgender Day of Visibility, an annual event on March 31 that celebrates transgender people and raises awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society.

Meanwhile, Director O'Hara urges anyone with information about a crime to call the Division's 24-hour Crime Stopper tip line at 1-877-NWK-TIPS (1-877-695-8477). All anonymous Crime Stopper tips are kept confidential and could result in a reward.

Anonymous tips may also be made using the Police Division's website at www.newarkpd.org or through our Smartphone App available at iTunes and Google Play. Search Newark Police Division to download the App.