

**DEPARTMENT of
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
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**Ras J. Baraka, Mayor
Brian A. O'Hara, Public Safety Director
Raul Malave III, Assistant Public Safety Director
Lee Douglas III, Chief of Police
Rufus L. Jackson, Chief of Fire**

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**VIDEO: Mayor Baraka and Public Safety Director O'Hara
Swear-in 67 Police Recruits
and Introduce 10 City of Newark Social Workers**

Mayor Ras J. Baraka and Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara hosted a graduation for 67 Newark Police recruits and introduced 10 City of Newark Social Workers during a public ceremony held yesterday.

“These police officers become part of one of the finest police divisions in this nation,” Mayor Baraka said. “And I appreciate each new officer for coming out of the academy now because this is not the police division of five or six years ago. We have a police division that’s changing, and it’s changing for the better. This is the first time in the history of this city that we’ve graduated social workers on the same stage with police. Our social workers are charged with helping us to create an atmosphere of safety in our communities. So, we welcome them and we believe their job is just as important as being a police officer.”

“Policing is a profession that is stressful and comes with a wide array of social problems that police didn’t create—but for decades have been expected to solve,” Director O’Hara said. “I thank Mayor Baraka for taking this step of adding social workers to help serve as guardians in our community and to help ease some of the burdens that police officers deal with daily. It’s absolutely unprecedented and it’s incredibly beneficial to all 311,000 residents of our city.”

The recruit class, comprised of 55 males and 12 females, began their training at the Essex County Police Academy on March 15, 2021. The group of 10 social workers, all females, will support police in providing services to crime victims and others such as crisis intervention, mediation and referrals. They will also receive specialized training from the Newark Department of Public Safety.

Attendees to yesterday’s ceremony included: Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey Rachael Honig; Executive Assistant New Jersey U.S. Attorney, Rahul Agarwal; New Jersey State Police Superintendent Colonel Patrick Callahan; Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo, Jr.; New Jersey State Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D); Essex County Sheriff Armando Fontoura; Essex County Police Academy Director Anthony Perillo; Newark Business Administrator Eric Pennington; Assistant Newark Public Safety Director Raul Malave; Newark Chief of Police Lee Douglas; Newark Deputy Public Safety Director of Police Operations Sharonda Morris; Newark Deputy Public Safety Director of Community Affairs Rev. Ronald Slaughter; Newark Director, Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery, Lakeesha Eure; Newark Fire Chief Rufus Jackson; Mayoral Aide for Clergy Affairs Rev. Louise Scott-Rountree and a host of others.

VIDEO LINK: <https://youtu.be/NDIWnoEqNLI>