

# THE CITY OF SUMMIT

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CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

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## News Release

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**For immediate release**

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### **Summit Police Detectives Rescue Toddler from Burning Home in Newark**

SUMMIT, NJ, September 3, 2025 – What began as a stolen vehicle investigation quickly turned into a life-saving mission when two Summit Police Detectives encountered a burning home in Newark's South Ward.

At approximately 2:58 p.m. on Friday, August 29, 2025, Detective Sergeant Ruddy Garita and Detective Darin Sliker were canvassing South 19th Street for a BMW reported stolen out of Summit the day before. Instead, they saw thick, black smoke pouring from the second story of a residence. They spoke with a man running out of the building saying he believed other people were inside.

From the rear window, a woman and child were screaming for help. Acting without hesitation, Det. Sgt. Garita grabbed a contractor's ladder from across the street, scaled it, and pulled the toddler to safety through the smoke-filled window.

At the same time, Det. Sliker and Newark Police officers forced entry through the front door, pushing through dense smoke as they searched the second floor. They breached a locked door and shouted through the darkness to ensure no one was trapped, ultimately confirming that all occupants had escaped before retreating.

Summit Police Chief Ryan Peters commended their actions:

"The actions of Det. Sgt. Garita and Det. Sliker were nothing short of heroic. Their courage, swift decision-making, and unwavering dedication to preserving life under extreme pressure reflect the highest standards of law enforcement. Without regard for their personal safety, they relied on their training, instincts, and commitment to duty to perform life-saving measures in a rapidly deteriorating and dangerous environment."

This incident underscores the commitment of Summit's officers not only to their assigned duties, but to the preservation of life whenever called upon.

Additional information: In July, Det. Sliker was awarded a lifesaving award from the Summit Police Department for saving a man's life while off-duty and in another city. After he found an individual struck by a vehicle and without a pulse, he quickly performed CPR, resuscitating the man who was then transferred to the hospital. He is out of the hospital now and expected to make a full recovery.

More information on the Summit Police Department is available at [cityofsummit.org/police](https://cityofsummit.org/police).

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