

THE CITY OF SUMMIT

NEW JERSEY

CITY HALL 512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE SUMMIT, NJ 07901

News Release

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Summit Police Implement New Jersey Arrive Together Program to Enhance Mental Health Crisis Response

Summit, NJ, September 20, 2023 - The Summit Police Department is participating in the New Jersey State Arrive Together program, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at improving emergency response to mental health crises by pairing trained mental health professionals provided by Trinitas Regional Medical Center with local law enforcement officers trained in crisis intervention.

The Arrive Together program, introduced the New Jersey State Police and initiated by the Union County Prosecutor's Office, recognizes the importance of addressing mental health concerns with compassion, understanding, and specialized expertise. The initiative seeks to help police to de-escalate situations, provide immediate support to individuals in crisis, and ensure the safety of both the community and the responding officers.

"The Summit Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community members, including those who may be experiencing mental health challenges," says Summit Police Chief Steven Zagorski. "By participating in the Arrive Together program, we aim to improve our response to mental health crises and provide individuals in distress with the appropriate care and assistance they need."

Under this program that will operate Monday to Friday from 12PM to 8PM, dedicated mental health professionals will accompany police officers to the scene of mental health emergency-related calls. Their primary role will be to assess the situation, engage with individuals in crisis, and offer immediate support and resources. The program seeks to improve the overall quality of crisis response and minimize the likelihood of incidents escalating into violence or harm.

Each of the participating police departments in County of Union will designate at least one officer to participate in the program and take 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. By the end of 2023, the program is expected to be implemented countywide. When not responding to calls for service, the Arrive Together team will perform follow up calls and actively visit individuals identified in the community that would benefit from mental health-related outreach.

"This initiative is a significant step forward in enhancing the safety and well-being of our residents," explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. "By combining the expertise of our police force with trained mental health professionals, we are taking a proactive approach to better addressing mental health crises in our community."

The Arrive Together program aligns with the broader efforts in the County of Union to prioritize mental health awareness, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and enhance crisis intervention services. By fostering collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals, the program aims to create a safer and more compassionate environment for all residents.

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The Summit Police Department is currently implementing the Arrive Together program and expects it to be fully operational in coming weeks. For more information on the Arrive Together program and the Summit Police Department, visit the City of Summit [website](#).

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