



# **SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **PATROL BUREAU**

### **MEMORANDUM**



Chief Ryan Peters  
Swearing-In- Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Chief Ryan Peters grew up in Toms River, NJ where he graduated from High School East before attending Towson University, Baltimore, MD. Chief Peters graduated college in 2005 achieving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration of Finance. Upon completion of college, Chief Peters began a career in finance working for Morgan Stanley; achieving several certifications, including the Series 7.

Shortly thereafter, Chief Peters, a product of a law enforcement family, consulted with his father (a retired Cranford Police Sergeant), and realized a career in law enforcement may be more suitable for him to pursue. Chief Peters attended the Monmouth County Police Academy as an Alternate Route Candidate, graduating 2nd in his class. Upon completion, Chief Peters was hired by the Summit Police Department in 2007, launching his career in law enforcement.

During his tenure, Chief Peters has served in many capacities at the Summit Police Department. Beginning his career in the Patrol Bureau, Chief Peters was also assigned as a Firearms Instructor, Active Shooter Response Instructor, and Field Training Officer.

Chief Peters was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2017, where he served as Juvenile Detective Sergeant and Commander of the Community Services Bureau. During that time, Chief Peters also served as the Director of the Summit Police Youth Academy, co-chair of Summit High School's One Moment Three Decisions Program, oversaw D.A.R.E. Operations, and has successfully developed and executed various educational programs for both the youth of Summit and their parents on several topics, including, cyber-security, anti-bullying, substance abuse, self-defense and community engagement. In addition to those assignments, Chief Peters was appointed as the Summit Police Department's Accreditation Manager in 2020. Over the course of the next year, Chief Peters was responsible for overseeing the revision and implementation of 60+ standard operating procedures for the agency, which ultimately resulted in a successful accreditation certification from the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Association.

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In 2021, Chief Peters was promoted to the rank of Captain, where he was assigned as the Commander of the Support Services Division, responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Detective Bureau and Community Services Bureau. Also, in that role, Chief Peters served as the Internal Affairs Officer, Public Information Officer, School-Security Liaison, Training Officer, and Capital Project Budget Manager. Chief Peters was also responsible for recruitment, background investigations, promotional processes, PTC licensing, Megan's Law registration, asset forfeiture, and mandatory reporting to county, state, and federal agencies. Additionally, Chief Peters successfully launched several projects to upgrade the police department's capabilities, to include mandatory self-defense training, advanced firearms training, new camera systems, TASERS, a drone, and more.

In addition to his duties with the Summit Police Department, Chief Peters was assigned to the Union County Emergency Response Team (UCERT) from 2009-2021, and the Union County SWAT Team from 2011-2021. Although only a part-time assignment, Chief Peters was exposed to extensive specialized law enforcement training, including but not limited to, FBI SWAT School, K-9 Tactical Operations, Chemical Munitions Training, Mechanical & Hydraulic Breaching, Close Quarters Combat, Active Shooter Response Training, and many more. In addition to training, Chief Peters participated in over 100 SWAT activations, to include, hostage situations, barricaded subjects, search warrants, arrest warrants, security details, etc. Prior to his departure from the team, Chief Peters received the Chief David Regal Hard Charger Award for Excellence and obtained the designation of Team Leader.

Over the course of his 18-year career with the Summit Police Department, Chief Peters has received numerous letters of commendation, appreciation, and awards from both citizens and other law enforcement agencies. Chief Peters has been an active participant in several charity events including, Hoops for Humanity, Toys for Tots, the Murph Challenge, the 9/11 Stair Challenge, and the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics.

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While not at work, Chief Peters enjoys spending time with his family, exercising, surfing, coaching youth sports, and mowing his lawn. He is joined today by his wife, son, daughter, mother, father, and many others.



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Captain Christopher Medina  
Swearing-In- Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Captain Christopher Medina grew up in New Providence where he was an active member in the community. He obtained his Eagle Scout recognition before graduating Oratory Prep High School. He graduated Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration – Accounting.

Captain Medina attended the John H. Stamler Police Academy, Class # 93 as an Alternate Route Recruit. He began his law enforcement career with the Summit Police Department in 2006 as a patrol officer. During his tenure with the Summit Police Department, Captain Medina has served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Officer in Charge, Patrol Sergeant, Detective, Detective Sergeant, and most recently as the Detective Lieutenant.

Additionally, Captain Medina has been our department's Terminal Agency Coordinator, Accreditation Manager, and Domestic Violence Liaison between Summit Police and the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Captain Medina has been the recipient of multiple distinguished services awards, two lifesaving awards, and one Chief's Award. Captain Medina has also graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law with a Juris Doctorate and is a practicing attorney. Captain Medina has been recognized as one of New Jersey's Best Lawyers for Families by NJ Family Magazine in multiple years. In 2025, Captain Medina was selected by Super Lawyers, an honor and distinction given to only 2.5% of New Jersey attorneys and reserved for those lawyers who exhibit excellence in practice.

Since 2023, Captain Medina has been the Detective Bureau Commander where he oversaw all departmental investigations, all civilian firearms permit

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requests, employee background investigations, liquor license investigations, and Megan's law registrants. After this promotion, Captain Medina will assume command of the Support Services Division.

When not working, Captain Medina enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, golfing, working out and practicing law. He is joined by his wife and children today.



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Captain Jonathon Garcia  
Swearing-In- Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Jonathon Garcia grew up in Flemington and graduated from Delaware Valley High School. He attended William Patterson University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. Soon after college, Captain Garcia began working within the small business division of AT&T, where he traveled throughout the country assisting in the establishment of numerous sales offices. He then went on to work as an auto repair mechanic, alongside his father, at their family owned business in Westfield. In 2006, Captain Garcia was accepted into the Monmouth County Police Academy as an alternate route candidate. Shortly after his graduation from the police academy, Captain Garcia was hired as a sworn law enforcement officer with the Summit Police Department in July, 2007; beginning his career in public safety.

Captain Garcia was assigned to the Patrol Bureau where his duties consisted of Patrol Officer, Bike Officer, Radar Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and Field Training Officer. He also held the role of Officer in Charge which afforded him the opportunity to fill in as a supervisor in the absence of a Sergeant or Lieutenant and oversee the shift and the responsibilities tied to this role. Captain Garcia has taken great pride in educating other officers on the multiple aspects of policing through his years as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor and Radar Instructor—while providing insight through his own training and experiences.

In 2020, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant where he served in the capacity as a first line supervisor in the Patrol Bureau. During this time, he also served as the Summit Police Liaison with the Union County Crisis Intervention

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Team (CIT) creating safe and effective police responses to individuals experiencing mental health crises and homelessness.

In 2023, Captain Garcia was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant where he served as the commander of the Patrol Bureau. In this role, he also served on Mayor Fagan's Homeless Task Force working closely with numerous organizations in an attempt to end homelessness in Summit.

Captain Garcia has received numerous letters of appreciation and commendations from both citizens and the Administrative Offices of the Summit Police Department throughout his career. When not working, Captain Garcia enjoys surfing, snowboarding and spending time with his wife and their two daughters.



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Lieutenant Thomas Rich  
Swearing-In- Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Lieutenant Thomas Rich is a highly experienced and respected law enforcement officer with over 26-years of dedicated service to the Summit Police Department. His career has been defined by a steady progression through the ranks, beginning with his role as a patrol officer and culminating in his new role as Detective Lieutenant.

Lt. Rich began his law enforcement career in 1997 with the Middle Township Police Department, where he earned top honors at the Cape May County Police Academy, graduating #1 overall and receiving the Physical Fitness Award, both with a 99.4 average. In 1999, he joined the Summit Police Department, starting as a Patrol Officer, where he was responsible for enforcing laws, protecting life and property, and engaging directly with the public. His early work set the tone for a career rooted in proactive policing and community service.

In 2004, Lt. Rich was selected for a Career Enhancement Position in the Detective Bureau—a rare opportunity for a patrol officer to assist in investigations. His strong performance led to his promotion to Detective, then to Detective Sergeant in the Juvenile Bureau. There, he focused on cases involving youth and worked closely with the Summit Board of Education, students, and families. During this time, he also served as a D.A.R.E. Instructor and Mentor for 10-years, educating students on drug prevention and safety.

He continued to rise through the ranks, serving as a Traffic and Special Services Officer, then Patrol Sergeant, and eventually Detective Sergeant overseeing the broader Detective Bureau. His ability to guide officers, manage investigations, and maintain operational integrity positioned him as a respected supervisor. In 2001, Lt. Rich responded to a bank robbery in progress and due to his actions, they were able to the arrest a suspect involved in seven bank robberies and multiple armed robberies across New Jersey. His work on this case earned him the FBI Award of Commendation, NJ Honor Legion Award, and widespread departmental recognition.



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Throughout his career, Lt. Rich has received numerous awards, including:

- Chief's Special Recognition Award
- Multiple Exceptional Duty and Honorable Service Awards
- Good Samaritan Award for his contributions during the 9/11 recovery efforts

And for his work with the youth of Summit and students across the United States he has been named:

- Citizen of the Year – NJ Probation Association
- Good Scout Award – Boy Scouts of America
- Volunteer of the Year – Summit Municipal Alliance

Beyond his enforcement duties, Lt. Rich has been a trailblazer in youth outreach and community programs. He created the first Police Trading Card Program, which is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, he served as the Director of the Summit Police Youth Academy for many years, and served as Adopt-a-Cop at Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School. He has long emphasized relationship-building between officers and the public, specifically the youth in the community.

Lt. Rich is the founder of AlwaysConnected.org, a national initiative through which he has been a keynote speaker at schools all across the United States and Canada. Over the past 16-years he has spoken to over one-million students, parents, and educators about digital safety, social media awareness, cyberbullying, and youth mental health. He has been featured on national platforms including *Good Morning America*, *The Nancy Grace Show*, *Fox 5 New York*, and *NBC4 New York*. His work off-duty as a speaker complements his law enforcement role, extending his impact far beyond Summit.

He holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Monmouth University, where he was inducted into the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. In addition to his formal education, Lt. Rich has not only completed but has gone on to teach many in-service trainings namely interview and interrogation, juvenile justice and sex crimes investigations to name a few.

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Outside of his professional life, Lt. Rich enjoys traveling with his fiancée, Kate, and spending time with their five wonderful children. His passion for family, community, and service continues to shape his leadership as a senior officer dedicated to advancing safety, trust, and excellence in modern policing.



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Lieutenant Jeffrey Deets  
Swearing-In- Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Jeffrey Deets grew up in Monmouth County. He completed his undergraduate degree with Thomas Edison State University and majored in Business Management. Lieutenant Deets began his career in law enforcement with the Summit Police Department as an Auxiliary Police Officer in 2012. He later attended the John H. Stamler Police Academy, graduating with Class # 110 and was the recipient of the Red Brick Fitness Award.

Upon graduating from the police academy in 2013, Lieutenant Deets was assigned to the Patrol Bureau. In 2017 he was transferred to the Traffic Unit. Within this unit, he became certified as a New Jersey Crash Investigator, Alcotest Operator, Radar Instructor, and Child Passenger Safety Technician. In 2019, Lieutenant Deets received his Police Motorcycle Operator Certification and became one of the agency's two (2) Motorcycle Officers. In 2021, Lieutenant Deets became certified as a Field Training Officer where he assisted with the training and guidance to the agency's newly appointed officers. During his time as a Field Training Officer, Lieutenant Deets provided support and direction to the agency's most recent hires. In 2022, Lieutenant Deets became the lead instructor for the agency's Active Shooter Response Training and was certified as a Simunition Scenario Instructor. He has been instrumental in developing training scenarios for the Officers of the Summit Police Department, including mass casualty events, as well as conducting countless hours of research into the best equipment to outfit the agency in the event a scenario was to arise. Lieutenant Deets received his certification as a Home and School Security Assessment Specialist to help thwart crime and ensure the safety and

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security of all schools, places of worship, and daycare facilities throughout the city. He later became certified as a Firearms, Rifle and Red Dot Pistol Instructor and assists with the annual qualifications for all sworn personnel as mandated by the state to follow PTC Certification requirements.

In 2023, Lieutenant Deets was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. In addition to maintaining the responsibilities and credentials for certifying much of the agency with mandated training; he was assigned to the Patrol Bureau as a first line supervisor to a platoon. While serving in this role he was tasked with reviewing and approving police reports submitted by his patrol officers, reviewing body camera footage, and assisting on calls for service when a supervisor may be needed on scene.

Lieutenant Deets has been an active member with events the department participates in; including National Night Out, Lead Drill Instructor for the Youth Academy, OM3D, Coffee with a Cop, Read Across America, Share the Keys, Drunk Busters, Driver Education, Toys for Tots, Summit Police Annual Food Drive, and agency car show events.

When not working, Lieutenant Deets enjoys working out, hiking, riding motorcycles, and spending time with his friends and family - who are here with him today.



# SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Swearing In Ceremony



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### **Swearing In—Officer Ryan Kroeger** **Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

Officer Ryan Kroeger grew up in Freehold Township. He graduated from Red Bank Catholic High School in 2015. He later attended Monmouth University graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 2019.

Officer Kroeger was hired by the Long Branch Police Department in 2021 as Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class I. The following year, the agency enrolled him with the Monmouth County Police Academy, attending as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II. While in the police academy, Officer Kroeger participated in a joint academy class where upon graduating he obtained a full Police Training Commission (PTC) Certification.

In 2022, Officer Kroeger applied to the Allenhurst Police Department, and subsequently transferred to their agency as a Patrol Officer. Officer Kroeger has served within their Patrol Bureau for the last 3-years working the overnight shift.

When not working, Officer Kroeger enjoys traveling and spending time with his family and friends. He is eager to start serving the City of Summit as a member of the Summit Police Department.



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## Swearing In Ceremony



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### Swearing In—Officer Elson Gloss Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Officer Elson Gloss grew up in Lodi, later moving to Linden, New Jersey. He graduated from Linden High School in 2018. He later attended Kean University graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Psychology in 2023.

Upon graduating from Kean University, Officer Gloss was hired by Newark-Liberty International Airport where he was employed as an aircraft mechanic until last year. Officer Gloss left the aeronautical industry, to pursue a career in law enforcement where he was hired by the Irvington Police Department in 2024 as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II. He attended the Essex County Police Academy, graduating with Class 24-2 in a special waiver program that afforded him the credentials to graduate with a full Police Training Commission (PTC) Certification.

While employed with the Irvington Police Department, Officer Gloss served in the Patrol Bureau. He worked closely alongside the agency's Detective Bureau assisting with the execution of search warrants, drug arrests and firearms and weapons recovery. Officer Gloss was offered a full-time, sworn position with the Irvington Police Department just prior to his transfer to our agency.

When not working, Officer Gloss enjoys working out, hiking and spending time with his family and friends. He is eager to start serving the City of Summit as a member of the Summit Police Department.