



SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

PATROL BUREAU

MEMORANDUM



Sergeant Ruddy Garita
Swearing-In- Wednesday, July 30th, 2025

Ruddy Garita is of Costa Rican descent, with both of his parents having been born and raised there. Sergeant Garita grew up in Summit, New Jersey attending Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School, Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School and was a 2009 graduate of Summit High School. Upon graduation, Sergeant Garita was selected as a recipient of the Thomas I. Glasser Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a graduating senior of Summit High School who was pursuing a degree in criminal justice or law enforcement. Sergeant Garita is the only recipient of this scholarship to be hired by the Summit Police Department. He continued his education at Fairleigh Dickinson University where he participated on the university's rugby team. Earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Criminal Justice, he is the first individual in his family to graduate from college.

While attending college, Sergeant Garita was committed to pursuing a career in law enforcement. He applied with the Summit Police Department to become an Auxiliary Police Officer, where he was selected to attend the John H. Stamler Auxiliary Police Academy, completing the program in 2013. Upon graduating, Sergeant Garita supported the department with special duties, including crowd control at special events, responding to emergency calls for service, and assisting with major natural disasters alongside the agency's full-time police officers; all of this was done while in a volunteer capacity for a little over three years. Sergeant Garita had the ability to conduct ride-a-longs with several of the agency's full-time police officers, reaffirming his lifelong goal of becoming a Police Officer with the Summit Police Department.

In 2015, Sergeant Garita spent one year working as a dispatcher with Mountain Valley Emergency Communications Center prior to being selected for employment with the Summit Police Department. In 2016, he entered the 115th Basic Police Training Class of the John H. Stamler Police Academy, graduating later that year as a Summit Police Officer.

Upon graduation, Sergeant Garita was assigned to the Patrol Bureau. While serving in this bureau, he became certified as Field Training Officer, a certified PTC Police Academy Instructor

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in New Jersey, an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) Instructor, and engaged in countless community activities – including STOKES, the 8th Grade Washington D.C Trip, and the Summit Police Department Youth Academy. He is still actively assigned as a pilot for the Summit Police Department's Drone Unit and serves as a member of the Summit Police Department's Honor Guard. Sergeant Garita is fluent in Spanish, which has allowed him the opportunity to build strong relationships and connections within the community, an invaluable asset.

In 2023, Sergeant Garita was assigned to the Detective Bureau. In this role, he was primarily responsible for investigating a range of crimes including burglaries, thefts, sex crimes, missing person cases, fraud, warrant executions and background investigations.

Sergeant Garita has been the recipient of numerous letters of appreciation from residents and business owners during his tenure with the Summit Police Department. He has been the recipient of almost a dozen exemplary performance notices from supervisors and a Unit Citation Award.

Sergeant Garita has previously served as both Recording Secretary and Vice President of Summit PBA Local # 55. When not working, he currently sits as a Board Member for both the Summit P.A.L. and the Thomas I. Glasser Memorial Scholarship Foundation. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing soccer, and traveling to Costa Rica where he shares a strong connection to his heritage while visiting his extended family and friends.