



NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
State Parole Board**

**Phillip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lt. Governor
Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Chairman**

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For Immediate Release

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HEROIC ACTIONS BY STATE PAROLE OFFICERS LEAD TO THE RESCUE OF A DRIVER INVOLVED IN CAR ACCIDENT

**New Jersey State Parole Officers Harper and Purciello Were
Passing by When They Decided to Stop at the Scene in Paramus**

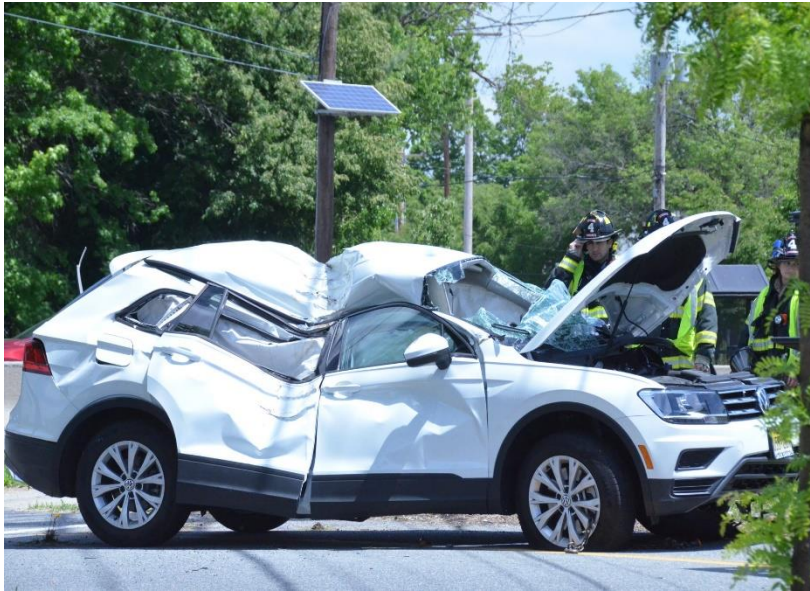
TRENTON, NJ, May 29, 2020— What began as a routine day for New Jersey State Parole Board Senior Parole Officers Jalen Harper and Steven Purciello turned into an act of heroism that could have potentially saved the life of the driver involved in a car wreck along Rte. 4 in Paramus.



The two officers were traveling eastbound on Route 4 near Spring Valley Rd., midday when they spotted a vehicle flipped onto its side with tremendous damage. Inside the Volkswagen SUV, was the trapped driver. Officers Harper and Purciello sprang into action and were first on the scene to help the woman.

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Upon their arrival, Officers Harper and Purciello noticed that fluid was leaking from the vehicle, making for a potentially dangerous situation. Fearing a fire or explosion, they acted quickly broke the windshield and pulled the woman out. The two officers were assisted by motorists who also stopped at the scene.



“For us, it was about getting the woman out of the vehicle and to a safe place,” said Officer Harper, who has been with the New Jersey State Parole Board since 2013. “Fortunately, she (driver) did not have any visible injuries, and that’s what is most important.”

Officer Purciello said “We knew we had to do something and that’s why we rushed to the car. We ensured that she was safe and calm. It was instinctual.”

New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. said “Those in law enforcement do not merely work in shifts. Many, like officers Harper and Purciello, remain focused at all times which is evidenced by their heroic act. On behalf of the entire State Parole Board, we thank you and congratulate both of you for your dedication, professionalism, and courage.”

Before leaving the scene, the officers were thanked by the woman.

All in a day’s work.

The New Jersey State Parole Board is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders in reentering society, and in reducing the state’s recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey’s primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, State Parole officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. The agency’s Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, addiction services, and related services.

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