



NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
State Parole Board**

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

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For Immediate Release

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SWIFT ACTIONS BY NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE OFFICERS AND USE OF NARCAN MAY HAVE SAVED A LIFE

**Quick Thinking by Trained Law Enforcement
Professionals Help Person in Distress in Jersey City**

TRENTON, NJ, June 29, 2020— State Parole Officer Nicolas Garcia was about to end his workday and just pulled up to District Office #4. As he walked towards the door he noticed a man lying on the ground who appeared to be in some distress. This was a scene that Officer Garcia has seen before—a situation where he would be called upon to take action as well...

Drawing upon his years of experience as an emergency medical technician, Officer Garcia recognized a tell-tale sign of what was wrong with the man—noticing abnormally small pupils, which was most likely a result of a potential opioid or heroin drug overdose. That's when Officer Garcia called his district office for backup and was quickly joined on the street by Sergeant Stephen Tischio and Officers Mayra Munoz and Janet Stendaro.

Officer Garcia administered the man a treatment of NARCAN, the nasal form of the drug naloxone which is used in emergencies to treat someone going through a suspected opioid/heroin drug overdose. Collectively, the four members of the State Parole Board worked to revive the man. Collaboratively, the team potentially saved his life.



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“When I worked as an EMT, I had given out NARCAN about a dozen times,” said Officer Garcia. “Fortunately, I happened to be in the right place at the right time and have previously been trained in NARCAN’s use.”

Sergeant Tischio said “It makes me very proud to see officers act selflessly when confronted with circumstances that could harm them. Everyone involved acted professionally and knowledgeably to complete tasks needed to be done while caring for the welfare of a stranger without hesitation.”

“I felt proud of my coworkers for their quick, professional, and compassionate response,” said Officer Stendardo. “Garcia and Tischio were hands-on and as a result, a life was saved.”

For Officer Munoz, the team’s quick actions exemplify what the job of a State Parole Board Officer is about. “It felt good to exercise the true purpose of being in law enforcement,” she said. “which is to serve and protect the members of our community, no matter what their criminal or drug use history is.”

New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri said “I am truly proud of all the professionals at the State Parole Board and repeatedly I am thoroughly impressed when I come to work and learn about situations such as this lifesaving rescue. Everyone who is part of this agency works hard to achieve the its goals, but during instances like this we recognize the significant community impacts made by our employees.”

Teamwork well executed. A job well done.

“This is why we entered this profession and why I am proud to stand next to these officers on a daily basis,” added Sergeant Tischio. “In today's self-centered, self-promoting society, it is always a source of personal pride to witness such an act of selflessness. While each responding officer should be proud, I highlight the actions and decisiveness of Parole Officer Garcia. He, above all, should be commended.”

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.

Photo Caption:

From left to right are State Parole Officer Nicolas Garcia, State Police Sr. Parole Officer Mayra Munoz, State Parole Sergeant Stephen Tischio, and State Parole Sr. Parole Officer Janet Stendardo.

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