



NEWS RELEASE



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
State Parole Board**

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

P.O. Box 862
Trenton, NJ 08625-0862

For Immediate Release

Contact: Tony Ciavolella,
Director of Communications
(609) 292-4031
(609) 439-5462 (cell)
Tony.Ciavolella@spb.nj.gov

2022-007

RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TIME. RIGHT ON!

NJ STATE PAROLE OFFICER RECRUITS USE THEIR TRAINING AND INSTINCT TO THWART DANGEROUS STREET ALTERCATION

TRENTON, NJ, September 23, 2022— One late summer afternoon, Parole Officer Recruits Lisa Maderal and Justin Ortiz were headed back to District Office # 3 in Neptune when they witnessed a physical altercation in progress between two adult males at the corner of Route 35 and West Lake Ave. Training, instinct, and professionalism took over as both officers exited their vehicle and intervened to de-escalate the situation.

The men given verbal commands to stop fighting but failed to comply. One of the men then grabbed a baseball bat, chased the other man, who he then struck in the head. The situation had now escalated to an aggravated assault and Officer Ortiz instructed the assailant with the bat to drop the deadly weapon and get to the ground.

“My training definitely took over,” said Officer Ortiz. “The training we received at the academy was so valuable and it now serves to assist us in potentially dangerous situation.”

The man finally complied, dropped the bat, and willingly went to the ground where he was subsequently handcuffed by Officer Maderal.

“I took him to the side and tried to calm him down after I handcuffed him,” said Officer Maderal. “This was not a parole matter—just something that happened on the street very quickly and there was no time to discuss what to do. We fell back on our training and de-escalation tactics.”

Both men were taken into custody and turned over to the Neptune Police Department once they arrived at the scene. Officers Maderal and Ortiz graduated from the police academy this past June.

Officer Maderal said, “I am happy that we were able to help. At the end of the day, we could have ended up saving someone’s life. I’m glad we were at the right place at the right time.”

more

The mission of the New Jersey State Parole Board is to promote public safety and foster the successful rehabilitation of offenders through the implementation of policies that result in effective parole case management. A multitude of innovative parole initiatives assist the Board in addressing the needs of the community, crime victims, and offenders through responsible decision-making and supervision processes. These initiatives assist the New Jersey State Parole Board in meeting its important goals which include increased public safety, sustained recidivism rate reductions, and the successful and sustainable reintegration of offenders.



New Jersey State Parole Board Parole Officer Recruits Lisa Maderal (left) and Justin Ortiz (right)

###