

Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island



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PRESS RELEASE

**Heroism of North Kingstown Police Officers Praised
*And New Officer Joins the Force***

North Kingstown, RI — With great pride and humility, the Town of North Kingstown and the North Kingstown Police Department honored several North Kingstown Police Officers with awards and commendations for their work and outstanding professionalism related to life saving actions, courage, or attention to detail throughout the course of their police work in the 2024 calendar year. “The NKPD is deeply proud to have such highly trained and selfless individuals amongst us,” says Chief John J. Urban, Jr, North Kingstown Police Department. “The lives of the many individuals affected by tragic events on these days would have come to very different conclusions had it not been for the bravery of our officers. Each has made the North Kingstown Police Department and the North Kingstown community very proud,” says A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager.

The officers highlighted at the December 23rd ceremony include:

- **Officer Julian Varela** and **Officer Kevin Lyons** each received a Division Commendation for their actions on June 8th, whilst on duty and engaged in transport of an individual to her family, witnessed another driver flip her motor vehicle upside-down in the middle lane of the highway, trapping her inside; Officers Varela and Lyons without hesitation, courageously aided the trapped motorist and helped keep her calm while extricating her from the vehicle safely, undeterred by potential harm from oncoming highway traffic.
- **Sergeant Timothy Daly** received a Life Saving Award for his heroic and selfless actions from July 2nd, when he rescued a wheelchair-bound North Kingstown senior citizen as he responded to her calls for help as she was trapped in her home that had filled with smoke and realized it was impossible for her to get to safety without assistance.
- **Sergeant Michael Bernardo** received a Division Commendation for his exceptional work as a Detective as burglaries of pharmacies in three states, including one in North Kingstown, RI, required exceptional attention to detail and significant collaboration with multiple jurisdictions and police agencies in New York and Connecticut

ensuring the extradition of a suspect identified through DNA evidence, back to our custody in October 2024, to face charges from a July 2022 robbery.

- **Officer Todd Duchala** received a Life Saving Award for his quick actions on September 10th, to administer CPR for an unresponsive resident for approximately four minutes until medical personnel arrived at the scene and determined that he had been revived for transport to an area hospital.

Also at the December 2024 ceremony was the swearing-in of the newest member of the North Kingstown Police Department following his graduation from the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy earlier this month. Welcome to NKPD, **Officer David Wright!**

For questions, please contact Kate Glass, Director of Communications and Executive Assistant in the Office of the Town Manager: kglass@northkingstownri.gov.

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