



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.



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*****NEWS RELEASE*** ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

WESTFIELD POLICE TO EQUIP EVERY OFFICER WITH NALOXONE TO COMBAT OPIOID OVERDOSES

WESTFIELD – FEBRUARY 26, 2020 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced that every Westfield Police officer will soon be equipped with naloxone.

Chief Battiloro stated the Westfield Police Department recently received a two-dose pack of naloxone for each and every one of its 61 sworn law enforcement officers.

The naloxone was provided at no charge through an initiative of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, the Department of Law and Public Safety, and the New Jersey State Police.

Naloxone, commonly called “narcans,” essentially serves as an antidote to an opioid overdose. When someone takes too much of an opioid, their breathing slows down and can stop completely.

Naloxone blocks the effects of opioids and reverses overdose symptoms. It works on overdoses of heroin and prescription painkillers, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine. When a person stops breathing after overdosing, naloxone can restore breathing within two to five minutes, preventing brain injury and death by overdose.

The Westfield Police Department has carried naloxone, or “narcans,” in all of its first-line patrol vehicles since 2014. Last year alone, Westfield officers successfully administered the antidote 5 times.

“Yes, the opioid epidemic has impacted even Westfield,” stated Chief Battiloro. “We are not immune to the tragic effects of opioids . . . and now every Westfield officer will have naloxone on his or her person at all times, ready for immediate deployment” he added.



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There were 316 police-administered naloxone deployments – and 133 opioid overdose deaths – reported in Union County in 2018.



Sergeant Nicholas Bruno, the Westfield Police Department's Narcan Coordinator, displays naloxone to be distributed to each and every Westfield Police Department officer.



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