



**Brian U. Stratton**  
Mayor

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**MAYOR STRATTON SWEARS-IN NINE NEW POLICE OFFICERS**

**SCHENECTADY** – Mayor Brian U. Stratton today announced the hiring of nine new police officers and administered the oath of office to the group during a ceremony at City Hall. The new recruits will begin an extensive, six-month training program at the Zone 5 Police Academy in Schenectady on Wednesday, followed by 12 weeks of Department supervised field training.

“I am proud to welcome these new officers to the ranks of the Schenectady Police Department,” Mayor Stratton said. “With their oath today, these nine individuals have made a commitment to enter one of the world’s most admirable, yet dangerous, professions as they risk their lives on a daily basis to protect and to serve.”

“But as they begin their new careers and prepare to bear great responsibility, they must also bear the added burden – each and every day – of correcting the image and profile of a police department that has been long plagued by the missteps, dysfunction and even criminal conduct of others who have come before them. Perhaps that is their greatest challenge,” Mayor Stratton added.

Public Safety Commissioner Wayne Bennett said, “The addition of these nine new officers to the police department is further confirmation of Mayor Stratton’s continuing commitment to maintain full department staffing. Only through full staffing can the department properly fulfill its law enforcement obligations to the citizens and provide the full range of services that are required. The Mayor should be recognized for his clear thinking on this very critical obligation as the chief executive of the city.”

“The fact that these nine young men successfully made it through the Schenectady Police Department’s rigorous pre-employment screening process underscores their good character and high levels of intelligence,” stated Police Chief Mark Chaires. “We are very excited about the respective strengths and talents that they bring to our agency. We think that each of them has unique characteristics which will make our agency better for having hired them. We would like to take this opportunity to thank their families for providing us with such outstanding recruits.”

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The new officers are:

- ◆ **James Claus**, 21, currently resides in Pattersonville, NY. Claus is a 2008 graduate of Schenectady County Community College with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and is currently attending the State University of New York at Albany.
- ◆ **Michael Dalton**, 29, is married and currently resides in the City of Schenectady. He was previously employed as a Corrections Officer for Schenectady County Sheriff's Dept. Dalton graduated from Schenectady High School in 1998 and attended Schenectady County Community College.
- ◆ **Brandon Kietlinski**, 24, currently resides in Princetown, NY. He is a 2003 graduate of Schalmont High School and a 2007 graduate from Hartwick College with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics.
- ◆ **Steven Nelson**, 24, is married and currently resides in Clifton Park, NY. Nelson is a 2003 graduate of Shenendehowa High School and currently attends Hudson Valley Community College for Criminal Justice. He served as a member of the Army Reserves Military Police in Iraq from May 2008 to March 2009.
- ◆ **Louis Perfetti III**, 24, currently resides in Green Island, NY. He graduated from LaSalle Institute in 2002 and attended Hudson Valley Community College. Perfetti is a former Airline Pilot with Richmor Aviation.
- ◆ **Michael Randle**, 22, currently resides in Rotterdam, NY. He was a Police Officer in the city of Columbia, South Carolina until recently moving back to the area. Randle is a 2004 graduate of Mohonasen High School and attendee of SUNY Cobleskill.
- ◆ **Kevin Rayball**, 23, currently resides in Ballston Lake, NY. He is 2004 graduate of Shenendehowa High School and a 2008 graduate of Buffalo State College with a Bachelor's in Political Science.
- ◆ **Zachery Weakley**, 24, currently resides in Delanson, NY. He is a 2003 graduate of Duanesburg High School and attended Schenectady County Community College for Criminal Justice. Weakley has been a member of the Air National Guard since 2006 and was deployed in South West Asia in 2008.
- ◆ **Adam Willetts**, 24, is married and currently resides in Troy, NY. He was previously employed as a Screener for the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at Albany County Airport. Willetts is a 2003 graduate of Lansingburgh High School and a graduate of Norwich University in 2007 with a B.A. in International Studies.