

April 12, 2017

Press Release: City of Bethlehem Hosts Regional Police Training Seminar on Current Topics Dealing with Interaction with the Public

The City of Bethlehem hosted a regional police training seminar at Town Hall on Tuesday April 11, 2017. The seminar was planned over five months by the City. Mayor Donchez welcomed the attendees and extended the City's thanks to the speakers and to the several people who arranged and sponsored the program.

The topics were specially selected in light of incidents receiving national attention over the past several years which have escalated local and national discussions about police interaction with the public. Topics included use of force, effective communication, pursuit and emergency vehicle operation, care and custody of detainees, bias based policing, documentation, consistency of discipline and off duty conduct.

The program was presented by two prominent attorneys with extensive experience in advising police departments and defending police officers in civil suits. The presenters were David J. MacMain, Esquire, a former Pennsylvania State Trooper who defends cases against the City and other Lehigh Valley municipalities, and Randy Means, Esquire who is nationally recognized for his expertise as an author and instructor of nearly a half-million police officials.

The City's insurance agent and carrier were the prime sponsors of the event and also played a major role in planning. More than sixty people attended including more than twenty of Bethlehem's supervisory officers and approximately forty officers from several area departments. Bethlehem Township, Hellertown, Palmer Township and the Northampton County Sheriff's Department were a few of the several area departments represented.

Afterward Chief DiLuzio commented that he was grateful for the multi-department support of the seminar, adding that "this turnout shows how much police officers care about improving their knowledge of the law and their professionalism in dealing with the public."