



**COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY**  
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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**



**EILEEN WHALON BEHR**  
*SHERIFF*

**ALFRED J. RICCI**  
*CHIEF DEPUTY*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 8, 2013**

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**The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department announces new hires and departure.**

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department (MCSD) has added several new employees to fill positions as sheriff's deputies, office support staff and a new role of public relations assistant.

"We are always on the lookout for talented and motivated individuals that have a strong desire to serve, and meet the needs of our citizens. We are especially proud to have new employees from such diverse areas of the community," said Sheriff Eileen Whalon Behr.

The following sheriff's deputies were sworn in on August 8, 2013 during a ceremony at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.

- Michael R. Bescrypt of Royersford, Pa., is an ex-Marine Cpl. and has 25 years of law enforcement experience from the Pennsylvania State Police serving as a crime unit supervisor, polygraph examiner, criminal investigator and a member of the patrol unit.
- Matthew P. Dean of Gilbertsville, Pa., is a graduate of Bloomsburg University with a bachelor of arts in Sociology with a minor in Criminal Justice. He completed a summer internship in 2012 with the Montgomery County Youth Center in addition to other community service projects. Dean will attend Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy training in August 2013.

- Timothy E. Kern graduated the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy in July 2013. Prior to accepting the position with the sheriff's department, he was the transportation coordinator at Lakeside Alternative School in Fort Washington, Pa. Kern resides in Hatboro.
- Anthony L. Krolikowski has joined the department after completing Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy certification training. He graduated from Gwynedd-Mercy College with a bachelor of science in Criminal Justice and also interned with the Pottstown Police Department. Krolikowski resides in Ambler.
- Robert Maier of Collegeville, Pa., recently completed certification training at the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy. He is also a graduate of Perkiomen Valley High School in Collegeville, Pa., and has earned an A.A.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Montgomery County Community College. Maier is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Liberty University Online.
- John M. Prestia of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., has completed the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy certification and lethal weapons training. He previously earned a bachelor of science in Criminal Justice Administration from Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, Pa., where he received several academic scholarships and served as freshman class president in 2008.
- James M. Surdykowski of Glenside, Pa., is a graduate of Albright College in Reading, Pa., where he received a bachelor of science in Criminal Justice. He also holds an A.A.S. degree in criminal justice from Montgomery County Community College and is a member of the Knights of Columbus, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. Surdykowski will attend Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy training in August 2013.

Kiara J. Smith of Philadelphia, Pa., has been added as office support personnel in the Civil Services Division. She recently earned a bachelor of arts from La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pa., with a dual major in criminal justice and sociology. Smith was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, the Thomas More Pre-Law Society, the Bilingual Undergraduate Studies for Collegiate Advancement organization and the Women's Tennis Team. She also recently served as an intern in the MCSD and previously with the juvenile division of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office.

Teresa W. Harris of North Wales serves in a new position as a public information assistant. She is a Phi Theta Kappa graduate of Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pa., with an associate of arts in communications, and was the first recipient of the college's Specialty Certificate in Public Relations.

Harris was also listed in “Who’s Who in Community Colleges” and received the Carol F. Whitcomb Memorial award for academic excellence in June 2012. She also has several years of marketing experience and recently worked as an intern in the MCSD. Harris is pursuing a bachelor of science in Communication at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa.

Jennifer Kobe of North Wales left the Civil Services Division of the sheriff’s department to accept the position of police officer with the Upper Merion Township Police Department. She holds a bachelor of arts in Psychology, with a minor in Criminal Justice, from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa. Kobe graduated from the Pennsylvania Municipal Police Academy in July 2013.

“It is not always easy to lose a good employee. But, we support department employees’ professional goals, whether it ultimately keeps them in the county or takes them elsewhere,” said Behr.

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