



PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 30, 2015

Contact:

Mayor Jose Torres
(973) 321-1600

Jerry Speziale
Police Director
(973) 572-6746

William Fraher
Chief of Police
(973) 321-1150

Operation Swift Justice

*'Operation Swift Justice,' Zero Tolerance Initiative in Response to increased violence
in the City of Paterson*

Paterson -- In direct response to the recent uptick of gun related violence in the City of Paterson, "*Operation Swift Justice*," is being launched in time for the New Year. This new initiative is designed to dissuade any further escalation and send a direct message that our police department will take whatever proactive measures deemed necessary and appropriate to ensure the safety and security of the City of Paterson community.

The Paterson Police Department, in conjunction with our partners in both state and county law enforcement, will launch a massive strategic police initiative that will blanket the City of Paterson with members of the Paterson Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Passaic County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey State Police.

Named "*Operation Swift Justice*" this zero tolerance-based initiative will be an aggressive response to recent criminal activity with an intensified police presence. And will forge a synchronized and swift response designed to balance spirited crime fighting efforts while safeguarding constitutional rights and civil liberties.

The Paterson Police Department will deploy members of the Patrol Division, Cease Fire Unit, Emergency Response Team, Traffic Division and Narcotics Division as well as support from the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office providing resources and technology.

The Passaic County Sheriff's Department and the New Jersey State Police will provide both uniformed and plain clothes officers along with the deployment of undercover street crime units throughout the city.

In addition, the City's Shot-spotter, camera and gunshot detection system, mobile cameras, license plate readers, lighting and hot spot crime mapping software will be utilized to aid in deploying resources.

As we approach the New Year, this operation will incorporate the core principles of the Mayor's Safe City Initiative that encompasses federal, state, county and community stakeholders in a synchronized effort that focuses on the 1-2% of violent criminals in our city who are responsible for the majority of crimes.

Operation Swift Justice will be a collaborative group effort whose focal point will be deterrence through targeted enforcement efforts of groups involved in the cycle of violence.

"The City has taken the steps necessary to swiftly and proportionality respond to the problems and needs of the community. The public must remain confident that we are committed to ensuring their safety and will make every effort to fulfill our responsibility to keep them safe."

-Mayor Jose "Joey" Torres

"The Paterson Police Department shall remain steadfast and vigilant in its efforts to ensure the public's safety and embrace the cooperation of our strategic partners in this endeavor to respond directly and aggressively to any threat to the peace and stability of our streets and neighborhoods. I applaud the Mayor's commitment to our department and appreciate the confidence he displays in the men and women of Paterson's Finest to get the job done."

-Police Director Jerry Speziale

"These are challenging times that require decisive actions in ensuring the public's safety. As Council President, I strongly support the Police Department's diligent pursuit in ensuring the safety and peace of mind of our residents."

-Council president William McKoy

"The increased police presence over the holiday weekend is exactly what my ward needs."

Councilman Michael Jackson 1st Ward

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS:

On-camera interviews will be provided tomorrow morning from 9 AM to 2PM at the Paterson Police Headquarters, 111 Broadway - Police Director's Office.

###