

PRESS RELEASE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

36300 Warren Road | Westland, Michigan | 48185
Office 734.467.3200 | Fax 734.422.1230

WWW.CITYOFWESTLAND.COM



Westland Police Department Recognizes New Hires and Promotions

Westland, MI (September 22, 2020) - On Monday, September 22, 2020, the Westland Police Department swore in three new officers to the force, and promoted two veteran police officers.



Officer Corey Skulina

Officer Skulina has served as a Westland Police Service Aid (PSA) for four years and a PSA trainer for two and a half years. Skulina grew up in Livonia and graduated from Livonia Franklin High School. He obtained an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Schoolcraft College and graduated from the Wayne County Police Academy in April. He is currently training in the Field Training Program.



Officer Margaret Kelly

Officer Kelly was born in Detroit and raised in Clinton Township. Kelly graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and is currently worked towards a Master's Degree at Wayne State. She has ten years of experience in the Criminal Justice field. After serving in various positions in jails as well as road patrol.



Officer Frank Opett

Officer Opett is a Westland resident and a graduate from Franklin High School.

After graduating high school Opett served in the Marine Corps infantry for five years. After leaving the military he was hired by the Detroit Police Department, where he served for four years. While in Detroit, Opett was assigned to patrol for two years and then spent the next two years assigned to gang enforcement.

Both Officers Cale Furney and Brandon Paris have been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.



Officer Cale Furney

Sergeant Furney grew up in Climax, MI. After graduating high school, Furney attended Grand Valley State University where he obtained his bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and then went on to attend their Police Academy. Furney worked for the South Haven Police Department and also Hamtramck Police Department prior to coming to Westland. He served as a Police Officer in the Westland Police Department for 8 years prior to this promotion and is currently serving as a Day Shift Patrol Supervisor.



Officer Brandon Paris

Sergeant Paris grew up in Dearborn and is a graduate of Dearborn High School. He obtained his Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2004 from Henry Ford Community College then went on to graduate from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy. Paris worked full-time at the Taylor Police Department as a Police Cadet prior to being hired by the Westland Police Department in 2006. He continued his education and obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Madonna University in 2014. Over his 13 year career, Paris has worked in the Traffic Bureau, as a field training officer, evidence tech, on the Traffic Investigation Team, an Emergency Vehicle Operations instructor, on the Awards Committee, Recruitment Team, and on the Motorcycle Team. He also created the Department's Police Youth Academy and helped create the Department's charity *Stuff a Swat Truck* event. Outside of the department, Paris is a part-time instructor at both the Wayne County Regional Police Academy and Washtenaw College Police Academy.

Promotions and new hires are typically recognized at a swearing in ceremony attended by elected officials, city department heads and friends and family of the officers but attendees were limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The COVID world has temporarily changed us to zoom meetings and small gatherings, however, recognizing our new and veteran officers is an important part of our department's culture so we wanted to continue on while using safety precautions," commented Westland Police Chief Jeff Jedrusik. "I am very proud to stand up and represent Westland PD as this department continues build upon it's professionalism and serves as a model for other communities."

"In a time where agencies are struggling to find quality candidates we are still able to attract them here in Westland which is a credit to the leadership of Chief Jeff Jedrusik and the entire department's commitment to law enforcement excellence,"

commented Mayor William R. Wild.



Pictured from Left to Right: Sergeant Brandon Paris, Sergeant Cale Furney, Officer Frank Opett, Officer Corey Skulina Officer Margaret Kelly, Chief of Police Jeff Jedrusik, Mayor William R. Wild and City Clerk Richard LeBlanc.

For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at (734)467-3200

Westland, Michigan is the state's 10th largest municipality, with a population of over 84,000 people who exhibit a great deal of pride in their All-American City. Westland has a thriving business community along with beautiful residential areas. The citizens enjoy a wide array of amenities and a quality of life that is second to none.

In 2014, Westland was rated as one of 24/7 Wall Street's *America's Best 50 Cities to Live*, offering residents and visitors an ideal blend of single-family affordable homes, apartments and condominiums, great schools, and access to numerous outdoor activities. Public safety is delivered by full-service, professional law enforcement and firefighting personnel. Westland Police Department, whose motto is protect and serve, provides emergency dispatch services to four cities and over 100,000 residents; the Westland Fire Department are licensed paramedics who responded to over 9,000 calls for service last year, about 85% being medical based. They never forget their mission of preserving life and property.

Westland is well-known as the premier destination for shopping and dining in Wayne County with hundreds of shops and restaurants anchored by the Westland Shopping Center, one of the country's original four regional malls.

The City is served by two public school districts; Wayne-Westland Community Schools serving 12,000 youth was recently named one of the *Best School in Michigan* by WXYZ-TV and is the proud recipient of 14 Golden Apple and two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards. Livonia Public Schools, educating nearly 15,000 students, is proud of their MEAP/MME scores that exceed state averages and the District has also earned Golden Apple and Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards.

The City provides competitive incentives for those who are interested in investing in Westland, making it one of the hottest investment markets in the region. Our Fast-Track to Business Team, which consists of key decision makers who work diligently on a development plan will "cut the red tape" and expedite the approval process for new business development.

