

# New Police Chief on Duty in Lower Township

ERMA – Lower Township’s new police chief, William Mastriana, has 20 years experience with the department advancing through the ranks and working divisions from patrol to detective.

Mastriana has spent most of his life in the township. He was born in Levittown, Pa. and moved to the township at the age of 12. He graduated from the Richard M. Teitelman School and Lower Cape May Regional High School.

Mastriana worked as fitness trainer for nine years prior to being interviewed by Lower Township police and being accepted into the Camden County Police Academy. He graduated from the academy in 1993 and was hired as a patrol officer by Lower Township police.

In 2003, Mastriana was promoted to sergeant and in 2006 promoted to lieutenant. He had the top score on tests for both sergeant and lieutenant. Mastriana said being the lieutenant of the patrol bureau provided him with a lot of satisfaction and experience.

In 2010, he transferred to the department’s detective division where he oversaw the day to day operations. In August 2011, he was promoted to captain.

He said one of his proudest moments was when he was asked to participate in the regionalization of the Cape May county SWAT team. He was involved with the county SWAT team for six years.

“I’ve always taken my job very seriously and tried to do the very best I could in any situation,” he said.

Mastriana said he would like to add an additional member to the detective division with one detective acting as liaison with the county Prosecutor’s Office. Lower Township police currently have an officer assigned to the county Prosecutor’s Office Gangs, Guns, and Narcotics Task Force.

Later this year, four officers will be sent to a one-week training course to be more proactive in drug investigations on the streets, he said.

“Each squad will have a specific officer responsible for that but will also impart that knowledge to the other officers who work on that squad to be able to be more vigilant,”

He said he wanted to continue the work of retired Chief Brian Marker to develop relationships and partnerships with the community.

“I’m looking forward to working with the mayor, council and the manager as far as implementing new technology within the police department,” he said. “I feel that it’s important in this day and age that we move forward and we try to advance as far as having the tools we need to do the job and do it more effectively.”

Mastriana said he wanted to strive to maintain public trust within the community.

He said he would like to develop a leadership program where command and line personnel would be required to attend specific courses to develop their leadership skills and to help them advance in their careers.

“I want the men and women to look at themselves in the mirror each day and say to themselves, ‘What I did today matters,’” said Mastriana.

Expanding the police department’s use of social media such as Facebook and other media outlets is a goal, he said, in order to keep residents better informed and get public input.

Mastriana has been married to his wife Kimberly for 18 years. They have a son and daughter.