

# BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Deputy Chief of Police • Chris Ciuci*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

04/22/2022

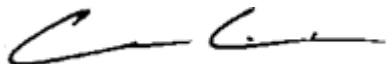
The BEST program began in January of 2021. It is employee recognition program principally based on a peer submission process. This new program was designed to increase the amount of recognition our employees receive for outstanding work and performance, to reward employees who demonstrate leadership, and to highlight the “BEST” our department has to offer.

We are proud to announce that Detective Brett Kelly has been selected as the BEST program’s “Employee of the Year,” for 2021. A brief write-up of some of the notable work Detective Kelly was involved with is attached.

The Rookie of the Year designation is for all new, full-time employees with no more than three (3) years of service at the time of review. This designation recognizes an outstanding new employee who has demonstrated a positive attitude and performed with dedication to the department’s mission. Employees that have been rehired after separating from the department or have come from another agency are not eligible for this award. Employees can only receive this only one time during a career.

We are proud to announce that Officer Maegan Musanti has been selected as the BEST program’s “Rookie of the Year,” for 2021. A brief write-up of some of the notable work Officer Musanti was involved with is attached.

Congratulations Brett and Maegan!



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**Detective Brett Kelly**  
2021 Employee of the Year



**Officer Maegan Musanti**  
2021 Rookie of the Year



# BEST PROGRAM

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2021

### DETECTIVE BRETT KELLY

We are proud to announce the selection of Detective Brett Kelly as our "Employee of the Year," for 2021. Detective Kelly has been with the Berlin Police Department for five years and was assigned to the Investigations Division in May of 2020. He is a member of our peer support team, a DARE instructor, field training officer (FTO), and actively participates with our ATV Squad and the Mid State Accident Reconstruction Squad (MSARS). Last year Detective Kelly was recognized for his involvement in a number of cases, many outlined below:



Detective Kelly investigated a fugitive from justice case that originated from the State of Pennsylvania. After a lengthy investigation, Ernest Cohens, age 53, of 3413 Waterpark Drive, Sacramento, CA was arrested Wednesday July 7th on the strength of an extraditable warrant out of Pennsylvania. Cohens was on probation in Pennsylvania following convictions for homicide by vehicle and display of obscene/sexual materials.

Detective Kelly was assigned a stolen vehicle investigation and separate larceny at a business that appeared to be related. Through interviews, DNA evidence, and video surveillance, Detective Kelly was able to connect both crimes and secure warrants for two individuals for violation of Connecticut General Statute § 53a-124 Larceny 3rd Degree and §53a-109 Criminal Trespass. The suspects in both cases were arrested.

Detective Kelly was selected to attend a weeklong Leadership Academy sponsored by the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association. The course was primarily attended by executive & command level personnel, but was open to all ranks. Detective Kelly was a deserving participant because leadership is not limited to specific ranks or a position.

Detective Kelly has demonstrated leadership characteristics important to our mission including dedication, compassion, professionalism, sound judgement and decision making, and engaging in positive interactions with crime victims & members of our community.



# BEST PROGRAM

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2021

### DETECTIVE BRETT KELLY

In November 2021 Detective Kelly was instrumental in planning and participating in the Berlin Police Association's flag football game that was comprised of BPD employees and family members. His coordination of this event was an example of the family atmosphere that is fostered and enjoyed by all of our employees. Brett's efforts created lasting memories for our staff and a bunch of sore bodies.

As an on-call investigator Detective Kelly routinely responded on short notice to after-hour calls for service related to criminal investigations, fatal crash investigations, and patrol shortages. Brett is extremely dependable and worked many covert surveillance details in 2021.

Detective Kelly has taken on more responsibility with the Mid State Accident Reconstruction Squad (MSARS). Due to staffing shortages on the squad, Brett was assigned the primary investigator for a fatal motor vehicle crash. The squad supervisors and team members were appreciative of his dedication and assistance.

Detective Kelly has continued to hone his investigative skills with evidence collection at crime scenes. Two cases of significance stand out to support this. While processing a recovered stolen motor vehicle, Detective Kelly seized tape that had been added to the exterior. The tape was fumed and a fingerprint was located and received a CODIS match linked to a possible suspect. In a separate case Detective Kelly was called out after hours for an unlawful discharge of firearm in a residential neighborhood. Shell casings seized at the scene and sent to the state laboratory for testing were entered into the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). That submission was linked to another unlawful discharge incident in a neighboring city.

Throughout the year Detective Kelly's distinguished service has reflected positively on the entire Berlin Police Department. We are appreciative of the dedication, professionalism, and tenacity that Brett displayed and we are honored to choose him as our BEST program's first employee of the year!





# BEST PROGRAM

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2021

### OFFICER MAEGAN MUSANTI

We are proud to announce that Officer Maegan Musanti has been selected as our "Rookie of the Year," for 2021. Officer Musanti has been with the police department since June of 2020. She graduated from the Police police academy in December of 2020 with a final grade of 92.85, which was 12/41 in her class. Officer Musanti is a member of our ATV unit and was recognized by her peers for the hard work she displayed throughout 2021. Some notable highlights are described below:



Immediately upon completing her field training Officer Musanti seamlessly integrated with her shift and excelled in her duties as a patrol officer. She takes pride in her job and is always looking for ways to improve and expand her role within the department. Officer Musanti does a great job building rapport with citizens, engaging the community, and fostering positive relationships with the public and coworkers alike. Officer Musanti is consistently recognized by her peers and supervisors for her thoroughness, attention to detail, and willingness to go the extra mile. In 2021 Officer Musanti was one of the most productive officers in the Patrol Division. Officer Musanti had the most self-initiated DUI arrests, was the 3rd highest among patrol officers for # of arrests, # of total cases investigated, total self-initiated activity, and total # of motor vehicle stops.

In March Officer Musanti noticed a man who was sleeping /unconscious at the wheel of his vehicle after she finished her shift and was driving home. She contacted HQ and as a result of her call, evening shift officers were able to investigate and ultimately arrest the operator for DUI and interfering with police. Maegan's awareness resulted in the removal of an impaired driver off of our streets and prevented potential harm to themselves or others. It was a great example of being vigilant both on and off-duty.

In July Officer Musanti was dispatched to a domestic assault at a motel on the Berlin turnpike. During the investigation the suspect attempted to flee out of a rear window. Officer Musanti ran to the rear of the building and was able to apprehend him. During the struggle Officer Musanti maintained control until additional officers arrived to assist. The offender was subsequently charged violation of a protective order, unlawful restraint, and assault on a public safety officer. Maegan's actions during this case provided the victim with relief from the abuse, safety, and protection.