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**Mercer County Prosecutor Supersedes Police Chief
and Assumes Control of the Princeton Township Police Department**

Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. announced today that the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office has superseded Police Chief Mark V. Emann and assumed control of the daily operations of the Princeton Township Police Department. The effect of this supersession is that the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office will directly supervise the day-to-day operations of the police department, including all personnel, until further notice. Notice of the supersession was provided to Princeton Township Mayor Bernard P. Miller.

The supersession is the result of an ongoing criminal investigation being conducted by the Internal Affairs Unit of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and the filing of related administrative charges. In addition to Emann, Lieutenant Michael Henderson and Corporal Arthur Villaruz of the Princeton Township Police Department have been relieved of their duties. The investigation, in part, relates to the sale of township-owned property by the officers.

Chief William Straniero of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office has been designated as this office's representative in charge of the supervision and management of the police department.

"The decision to assume control of the Princeton Township Police Department was made to ensure the effective administration of police services and criminal justice within the township," Bocchini said. "I have been assured of Princeton Township's complete cooperation and am confident that the public will continue to be protected and served in a thorough and professional manner."

At this time, no criminal charges have been filed. The investigation is ongoing and in order to protect its integrity no further comment or additional information can be provided.

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