



ROBERT D. PARISI
Mayor

TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

66 MAIN STREET, WEST ORANGE, N.J. 07052

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Tel: (973) 325-4100

Fax: (973) 669-0238

Email: Mayor@westorange.org
RParisi@westorange.org

First Responders Hold Active Shooter Drill at West Orange Movie Theater

October 15, 2014 – West Orange, N.J. – Earlier today, the West Orange Police Department hosted a multi-agency active shooter drill at a local West Orange movie theater.

The mock scenario, which was initially called into the West Orange Police Department as an armed robbery, turned into an active shooter situation at the Essex Green Shopping Mall at 495 Prospect Ave.

The training exercise served as practice for a number of different responding agencies, including the West Orange Police Department, West Orange Fire Department, Essex County Sheriff's Department, Essex County Office of Emergency Management, NJ State Police along with multiple local police departments, firefighters and medical personnel. Assistance was provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Federal Air Marshalls, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, the Target Behavior Response Laboratory at Picatinny Arsenal and Department of Defense at Picatinny Arsenal.

"Unfortunately this type of situation, where there is a shooting in a movie theater, is unpredictable. It has happened in real life and it can happen again, which is why it's so important to train and prepare our first responders," West Orange Mayor Robert Parisi said.

The drill was funded by a \$240K grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The exercise was led by West Orange Police Lieutenant John Morella and West Orange Police Officer Scott Smarsh.

"We created this vital training exercise so that law enforcement agencies have the opportunity to work together to during these types of emergencies. The WOPD is very grateful for the financial backing of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security along with assistance of Picatinny Arsenal and the Essex County Sheriff's Department," said Morella.

This is the second year in a row that the West Orange Police Department has hosted an active shooter drill. Last year's mock drill took place at Liberty Middle School. It was video-taped from every angle for law enforcement to analyze their reaction and execution of the



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
www.westorange.org

event. The video was created into a documentary by Montclair State University for future training purposes.

“There has to be a plan in place so that the different agencies who are responding to an active shooter situation know what to do and where they need to be when they are on the scene,” said West Orange Police Chief James Abbott. “You can never be too prepared for the reality of a dangerous event like the one we held today. After witnessing the drill, I feel confident that the agencies involved have a well-developed plan in place.”

###

MEDIA CONTACT:

West Orange Police Lt. John Morella
973-325-4030
jmorella@westorange.org



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
www.westorange.org