

**OFFICE OF THE BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE 2015-1
EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

**A DIRECTIVE MODIFYING DIRECTIVES 2010-1 AND 2014-1
ESTABLISHING PRIMARY AUTHORITY FOR THE BERGEN
COUNTY REGIONAL SWAT TEAM AND FURTHER PROVIDING
FOR A UNIFIED K9 RESPONSE WITHIN BERGEN COUNTY**

WHEREAS, under New Jersey law, the Bergen County Prosecutor is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the County of Bergen. The office is a constitutional office charged with broad obligations to use all reasonable and lawful diligence for the detection, arrest, indictment and conviction of offenders against the laws.” As such, the Prosecutor’s Office has wide-ranging authority over all law enforcement issues within the County; and.

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2015, as required under Executive Order 92-1 and as part of the annual Bergen County Law Enforcement Services Review Board (LSRB) meeting, the annual Law Services Review Board Committee organized and made certain findings and conclusions concerning the deployment of K9 and SWAT services within the County, all based in part upon previous findings and conclusions of a 2012 report issued by the 2012 Board to evaluate and execute a plan to regionalize certain specialized law enforcement functions within Bergen County and concerning the providing of SWAT and K-9 Services. Said Report was incorporated into the 2013 Law Services Review Board Report and adopted therein.

WHEREAS, previous Directives issued by this office have provided for the establishment of priorities when local Incident Commanders found it necessary to request both SWAT and/or K9 services, and by THIS Directive, it is intended that these former Directives be rescinded, in part, so as to establish that, hereinafter, the Primary SWAT response team shall be the Bergen County Regional SWAT team and the primary K9 response unit shall be the Bergen County Sheriff’s Office, as further set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby DIRECTED as follows:

1. **THE BERGEN COUNTY REGIONAL SWAT TEAM** shall be the primary SWAT responding team for all agencies throughout Bergen County UNLESS an Incident Commander has within his or her municipal agency a SWAT unit approved by the

Prosecutor in accordance with Directive 2010-1. Under those circumstances, the Incident Commander may call upon his or her own SWAT unit, with the Regional SWAT team being backup. The Regional SWAT command shall notify all Departments of all contact information upon issuance of this Directive.

2. The **BERGEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** shall be the primary K9 responding unit for all agencies throughout Bergen County UNLESS an Incident Commander has within his or her municipal agency a K9 unit. Prior Directives and the previous practice of separating K9 responses based upon the nature of the required response (i.e. cadaver, tracker, Bomb/accelerant) is hereby rescinded.

3. All prior Directives from this office issued relative to the providing of SWAT and K9 services not expressly rescinded by this Directive shall survive and remain in full force, including Directive 2010-2 providing for the standards and conditions under which a local police unit may provide SWAT services and the requirement for an initial approval of same by the Bergen County Prosecutor and an annual compliance review and reporting to the Chairman of the Bergen County Chiefs Association SWAT Review Committee, which shall ultimately report same to the Bergen County prosecutor's Office.

Dated February 16, 2015



BERGEN COUNTY PROSECUTOR
JOHN L. MOLINELLI