

## **B.I.D.A. Works with Berwick Borough Police Department for Active Shooter Training**

**Berwick, PA — Berwick Industrial Development Association (B.I.D.A.), a leader in economic development focusing on industrial development and manufacturing, is excited to work with Berwick Borough Police Department and Chief Kenneth Strish and their active shooter training program.**

**Chief Strish met with B.I.D.A. Executive Director, Kelly O'Brien at the B.I.D.A. Industrial Complex to tour some physical space that could be utilized for training purposes for Berwick Police Department's patrol officers. It was determined that the industrial buildings would be perfect and Chief Strish would then introduce Ms. O'Brien to JESTER Group, LLC.**

**JESTER Group, LLC, stands for Joint Emergency Services Training Equals Readiness, delivers real-world training for law enforcement officers, and customizes the training for our environment having the knowledge that there was an active shooter in the B.I.D.A. Industrial Complex in the past; Robert Nestrick, the CEO and Lead Trainer was able to provide realistic simulations. JESTER Group, LLC serves a diverse market with executive protection agents, emergency responders, police, and responsible private citizens to prevent, mitigate, and survive the consequences of criminal and terrorist acts in the world.**

**To be truly realistic you need people to participate, we had a colorful group of volunteers the first week, including our very own Columbia County Commissioner Dave Kovach, who played the victim, shot by the trainer playing the role of an active shooter for one of the scenarios.**

**All the volunteers that participated in the active shooter training, learned what is involved and what police officers go through, and how, as civilians, we need to help ourselves first. When you find yourself in a situation where you need first aid, you need to know how to help yourself. In first aid training, we are taught how to help someone in need, while we should also learn how to help ourselves. A police officer's first job is to stop the assailant; the victims must be secondary to the shooter. If not, the number of injured or dead could potentially increase. Our local police officers, B.I.D.A., and our volunteers want to thank Dollar Tree Warehouse who supplied the snacks for the day.**

**B.I.D.A. is hoping to participate again, on a larger scale that would involve the Industries in the Complex and the Emergency Management Services for Columbia County, EMTs, Fire Department, and our local police force, while also including 911 dispatch, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for proper addressing, Fire Department on all hazardous chemicals and/or flammable materials including where they are located in and around the Complex itself.**

A task force is being formed to plan and execute this type of large-scale exercise and we are hopeful that JESTER Group, LLC will join us for another successful training. Thank you to Police Chief Strish, the experience was enlightening and rewarding for all involved.

For more information on B.I.D.A. do not hesitate to contact our offices at 570-752-3612 or by email at [info@bida.com](mailto:info@bida.com).

We manufacture success!



(In the photo from L to R; First Row: Officers Guevara and Sienkiewicz, B.I.D.A. Marketing Director Amy Shortlidge, Mark Berkoski, Anthony Maldonado; Second Row: B.I.D.A. Executive Director Kelly O'Brien, County Commissioner David Kovach, Officers Gainley and Trenholm, Rosanne Kunkle, Susan Ritchey, Duke and Robert Nestrack, and Alex Jenigen)



**(In the photo from L to R: Officers Mulders, Lowery, Torres, and Loyacono)**

**Also participating but missing from the photos are Madison Auchter, Madyson Titus, Christopher Martin, Andrew Fulkersin, Gene Boone, Randy Hurst, Stacy Whitmire, Ayrin Shortlidge, and Rob Angerson.**

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