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Slate Belt Regional Junior Police Academy Director Officer Robert Long Retiring

By Pat Stonacker

PLAINFIELD TWP., Pa. - Slate Belt Regional Police Officer Robert Long. Officer Long has been a police officer, in total, for 31 years. The last few years he has been the School Resource Officer for Wind Gap Middle School. What Officer Long is best known for though, is the Slate Belt Regional Junior Police Academy which, while an officer with the Plainfield Township Police Department (prior to regionalization), he envisioned, developed, and organized every year (except for two (2) due to COVID) since 2002. Averaging 25-30 cadets every year, over 550 students have participated in Officer Long's Junior Police Academy. Officer Long's JPA is the longest running Junior Police Academy Program in Northampton County.

Friday, June 20, 2025, was the graduation day of Officer Long's LAST JPA Class, as he is retiring in the spring of 2026. Graduation day was open to ALL GRADUATES of the Slate Belt Regional/Plainfield Township Junior Police Academy to come out and recognize Officer Long for his tireless efforts for our kids and it allowed Officer Long to see the results of his hard work and the impact that he has made on youth in our community.

560 students have completed the Slate Belt Regional Junior Police Academy since its inception. Fortunately, there will be new officers that will be continuing the program; however, Officer Long's presence will be deeply missed.

"This journey has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. The memories we've created, the challenges we've overcome, and the successes we've celebrated together will always hold a special place in my heart" said Officer Long.

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Slate Belt Regional Chief Johnathon Hoadley presents Officer Long with a plaque for his service



Officer Long shows off his 'Junior Police Academy' belt gifted to him.



2025 Slate Belt Regional Junior Police Academy Class



Wind Gap Fire Co. Honors Officer Long



"A big thank you to B.A.C.K. (Bikers Against Cop Killers) for being one of our sponsors for the Class of 2025. Your generosity is greatly appreciated" said Officer Long.



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