



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.

- An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency
& Public Safety Answering and Dispatch Point -

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WESTFIELD POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST 57-YEAR-OLD ROOSEVELT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHER FOLLOWING NOVEMBER CLASSROOM INCIDENT

WESTFIELD, NJ – JANUARY 6, 2023 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced that a 57-year-old teacher at Roosevelt Intermediate School has been charged with drug-related crimes and offenses, as well as endangering the welfare of children, following a November incident which occurred in his classroom.

Chief Battiloro stated that on November 29, 2022, at approximately 0906 hours, the Westfield Police Department received a report from Roosevelt's School Resource Officer, Fortunato Riga, of an unconscious teacher in a second-floor classroom. He was alerted to the situation by a school administrator, who was requesting his assistance on scene.

Officer Riga arrived to find Frank Thompson, an Art teacher, unconscious and unresponsive on the classroom floor. Thompson was discovered and observed in distress by students and was actively being treated by a school nurse.

Officer Riga perceptively observed signs indicative of a drug overdose. He deployed and administered the Naloxone Hydrochloride (or "Narcan") he carries on his person, which resulted in Thompson showing marked signs of improvement.

Following an investigation of this incident, a quantity of a suspected controlled dangerous substance and various items of drug paraphernalia were located in a closet in the classroom. Thompson was charged on January 5, 2023, with the following:

- Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (fentanyl), 2C:35-10A(1), a crime of the third degree;
- Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 2C:36-2, a disorderly person offense;
- Endangering Welfare of Children, 2C:24-4A(2), crime of the third degree.

Thompson has been served with a complaint-summons through his attorney and is scheduled to present himself to Central Judicial Processing on February 1, 2023 at 8:30 AM.



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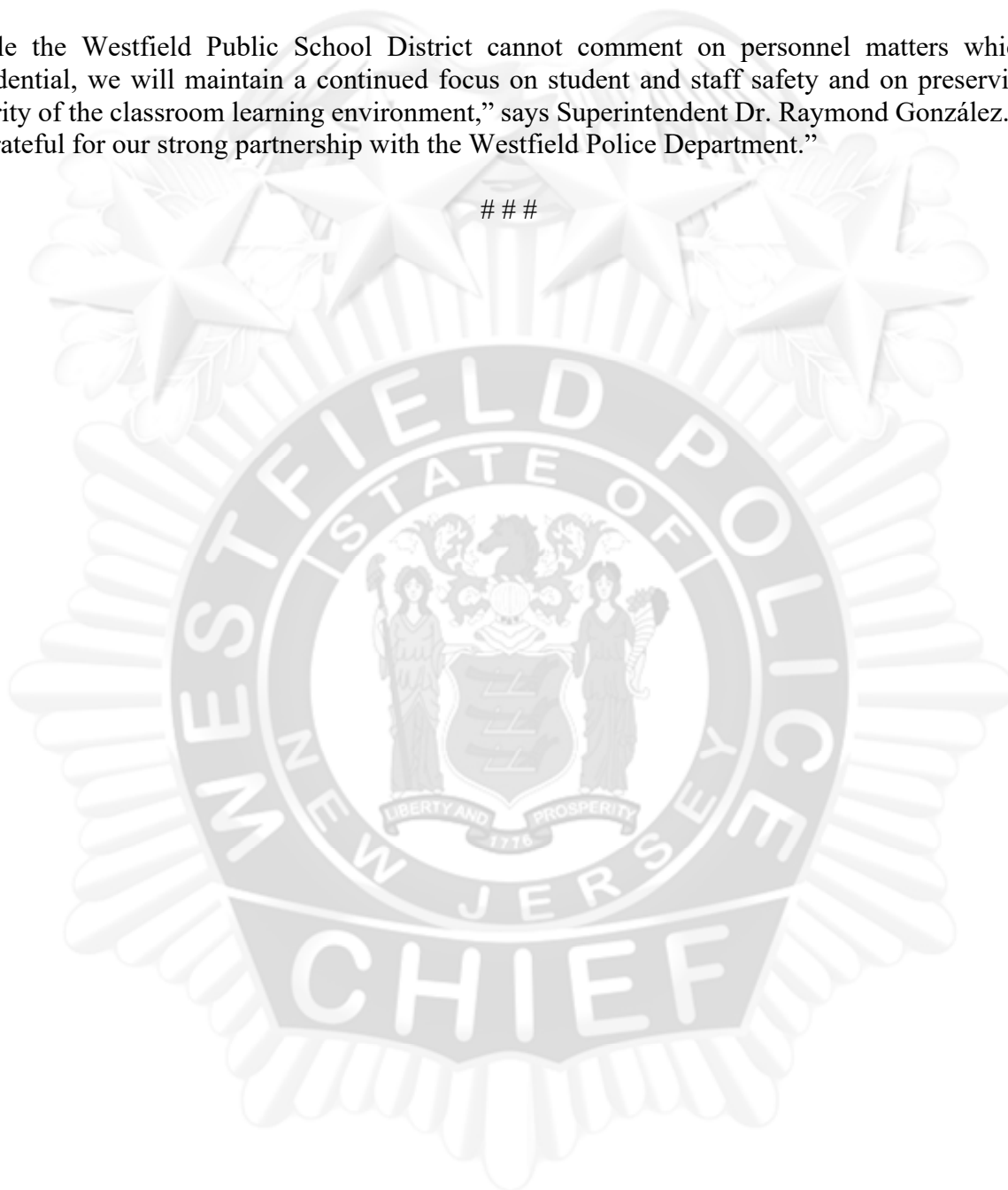


All Westfield Police officers, to include School Resource Officers, have been issued and are equipped with “Narcan.” They administered it to suspected drug overdose victims thirteen (13) times in 2022.

“The Westfield Police Department continues to prioritize its ongoing partnership with the Westfield Public School System to ensure it has the safety and security resources it needs on a daily basis,” said Chief Christopher Battiloro. “In this case, the swift actions of Officer Riga, who is on-site at Roosevelt Intermediate each school day, proved instrumental in maintaining the safety of the students and administering potentially life-saving measures to Mr. Thompson.”

“While the Westfield Public School District cannot comment on personnel matters which are confidential, we will maintain a continued focus on student and staff safety and on preserving the integrity of the classroom learning environment,” says Superintendent Dr. Raymond González. “We are grateful for our strong partnership with the Westfield Police Department.”

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