

**SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 1, 2024
12:00 NOON**

A special meeting of the North Wildwood City Council was held at 12 Noon on the above date at the Lou Booth Amphitheater, 505 E. 2nd Avenue in North Wildwood. The President of Council stated, *"The meeting is now open. Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by posting a copy of the notice of the time and place of this meeting on the City Clerk's bulletin board, on the City website, and by publishing a copy of the same in The Cape May County Herald on April 17 and April 24, 2024 in The Cape May Star & Wave on April 17 and April 24, 2024."*

ROLL CALL: Present were Mayor Patrick Rosenello, President of Council Salvatore Zampirri, Councilpersons Margaret Bishop, David Del Conte, James Kane, Kellyann Tolomeo and Joseph Rullo. Councilman Edwin Koehler was not present. Also present was Administrator Nic Long.

The **PRESENTATION OF COLORS** was carried out by the North Wildwood Police Department Honor Guard.

The **NATIONAL ANTHEM** was sung by Monica Kobierowski, a 12th grade student at Wildwood High School.

The **INVOCATION** was offered by North Wildwood Police Department Chaplain Deb Moore.

APPOINTMENT:

MAYOR ROSENELLO welcomed all to today's meeting. Katherine Madden will today be appointed as Chief of Police of the City of North Wildwood and her name will be presented to Council for approval. Katherine was born & raised locally here in North Wildwood. She attended Margaret Mace Elementary School and Wildwood Catholic High School. She is married to Ryan Madden and they have three children, Ryan (8), Trinity (6), and Rory (2). Katherine is a 4th generation Police Officer; she is the daughter of retired NWPD Detective Sergeant, Thomas Flounders, her grandfather and great-grandfather both retired from Philadelphia Police Department, and her brother is a current Middle Township Police Detective.

Katherine was hired as a SLEO II in 2006 and as a full-time officer in 2007. She became a detective in 2011, Sergeant in 2014, Lieutenant in 2019 and Captain in 2023. She has served as the Accreditation Manager for the Police Department, has worked in the Detective Bureau, as director of Training & Recruitment, and is a Vehicle Operations Instructor at the Cape May County Police Academy.

Katherine has attended the FBI National Academy 289th session, graduating in March 2024. She has obtained a Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers University, graduating Magna Cum Laude. She has a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from University of Virginia and attended the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Command & Leadership Academy in February 2023.

She has received the following commendations:

- 2023- Educational Achievement Award for planning / hosting the 2022 Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement Training Conference.
- 2023- Distinguished Unit Citation for efforts during the H2Oi weekend.
- 2022- Distinguished Unit Citation for efforts on a barricaded subject that was successfully resolved without incident.
- 2014- Distinguished service Award while assigned to detectives for successful apprehension of a subject who had committed 15 residential burglaries throughout our town.
- 2011- Top Gun Award from NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety- awarded for the most DWI's arrested in the police department.

Katherine is affiliated with the FBI National Academy Associates, NJ Women in Law Enforcement, is a Past Conference Chairperson of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement, and is the Cape Express Soccer Club Boys Director.

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Police Department:

Katherine Madden

Chief of Police

effective 5/1/24

The above appointment was offered by Bishop, seconded by Tolomeo, the roll being called, all voting in the affirmative, the President of Council declared the appointment confirmed. City Clerk Jett stated that Councilman Edwin Koehler, although not able to be present at this meeting, stated in a telephone conversation this morning that he wholeheartedly supports the Mayor's appointment of Chief Madden.

CITY CLERK JETT administered the oath of office to Chief Madden, with her son Ryan holding the Bible. The Chief's badge was then pinned on by her daughter Trinity, assisted by Thomas Flounders Sr.

CHIEF MADDEN made the following remarks:

Thank you for joining us today. Most don't know this, but this isn't my first time being the Chief of Police for the city. In 1999, I was Chief of Police for the day during the 7th grade student council day with the city. If you had told me then that I'd be working for the same agency as my father and sitting in that same office 25 years later, I would've told you that you were crazy. Growing up, I never imagined that I would be standing here today, entrusted with such tremendous responsibility. But with the help and guidance from some amazing people in my life, I am here today. As Abby Wambach, the 2x Olympic Gold Medalist from the women's national soccer team said "I've never scored a goal in my life without getting a pass from someone else". Every single person in this room has impacted my career in some way; large or small. No one arrives to these moments in life without others investing in them and helping them get there. I am cognizant that I am in this position today because of the support of every one of you and I wanted to begin today by letting you know how grateful I am for the role you have played in this accomplishment.

I'd be remiss not to mention the people who have supported me the most in this journey, my family. I have them to thank for the countless sacrifices they have made to support this dream. Thank-you to my friends for always being my cheerleading squad. To my Mother In-law and Father In-law for the countless hours of free babysitting. To my siblings, for helping make me into the competitive person I am today, to have that desire and drive to never give up. To my children, who I've had to miss soccer games, Barbie play dates and snuggle sessions for work.

Trinity has really been my biggest supporter and biggest inspiration for this goal. Although, she now believes I will be able to go into work after they get on the school bus and be home by 1pm. To my father, for giving me that nudge 18 years ago to start the most rewarding career. To my husband, for the countless times you've been there with a positive note to pick me back up when I wanted to throw out my AG guideline and 2C Books. And last but not least, my mother, who has been my true inspiration through this all. Although not here in person, she is in spirit, and I damn well know I've made her proud.

Today marks a significant moment not only for me but for our entire community. As the first female police chief for the City of North Wildwood, I am acutely aware of the historical significance of this occasion. However, I do not want this to be about breaking barriers or shattering glass ceilings; but about the ever-changing collective journey we undertake as guardians of justice and stewards of safety.

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In assuming this role, I am mindful of the challenges and responsibilities that come with the position.

Policing is a dynamic and demanding profession, one that requires not only skill and courage but also empathy and understanding. We must recognize the complexities of the issues we face and handle them with intelligence and heart.

So above all, let us never lose sight of the human element of policing. Behind every badge, every uniform, and every rank, there beats a heart driven by a desire to serve, to protect, and to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Let us never forget the power of compassion, empathy, and kindness towards each other in our interactions, even in the most trying of circumstances.

To the men & women who so diligently serve the population of this wonderful community with me: As we look to the future, let us reaffirm our commitment to the core principles that define our profession: integrity, accountability, and respect. These principles must guide our actions, shape our decisions, and inform our interactions with every individual we encounter.

Amidst the gravity of this moment, let us not forget the joy, the laughter, and the camaraderie that binds us together as colleagues, as friends, and as members of a team with a shared mission. Let us celebrate not only our achievements but also the countless moments of courage, compassion, and kindness that define who we are and what we stand for.

Attending the FBI National Academy this winter had made it abundantly clear to me of the need for innovation and adaptation in the face of evolving challenges.

I am now even more keenly aware that the landscape of law enforcement is constantly shifting and we must be proactive in embracing new technologies, methodologies, and best practices. We must be willing to learn, to grow, and to evolve both as individuals and as an organization. Moreover, let us not forget the importance of collaboration and partnership. Effective policing cannot be achieved in isolation.

It requires the active engagement and support of our community leaders, citizens, stakeholders, and fellow law enforcement agencies. Together, we can achieve far more than we ever could alone.

Thank you, Mayor & Council, from the bottom of my heart, for this opportunity. I am profoundly humbled and honored by the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I am deeply grateful to have the privilege to lead this outstanding department and the citizens of this incredible City. I look forward to writing the next chapter in the distinguished history of our department together—a chapter defined by courage, compassion, and above all, community. Thank you everyone for being here today.

RESOLUTION:

159-24

RE:

Approving Memorandum Of Understanding Agreement Between The City Of North Wildwood And Katherine Madden, Chief Of Police

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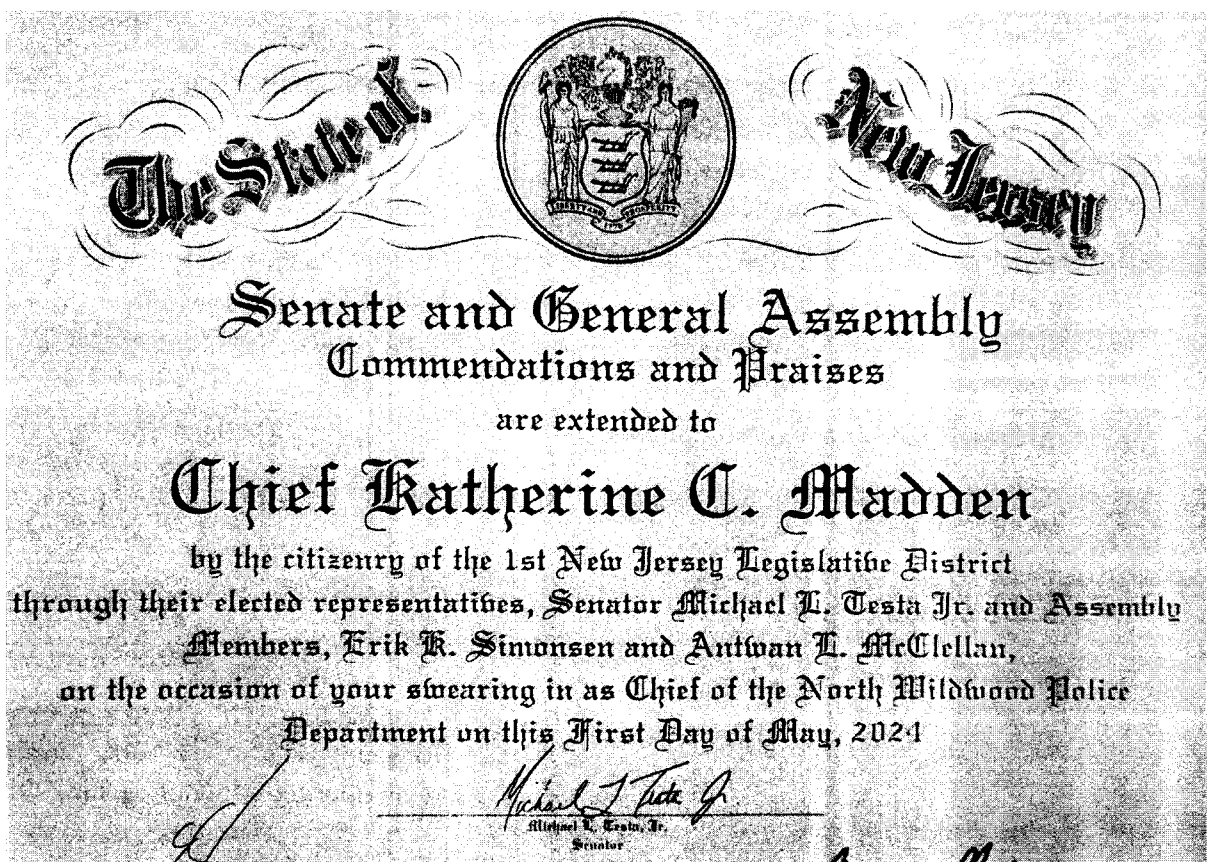
The above resolution was offered by Tolomeo, seconded by Rullo, the roll being called, all voting in the affirmative, the President of Council declared the resolution duly adopted.

MAYOR ROSENELLO recognized the numerous dignitaries in attendance today.

CAPE MAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER MELANIE COLLETTE made remarks congratulating Chief Madden on her appointment.



STATE ASSEMBLYMEN ANTWAN MCCLELLAN AND ERIC SIMONSEN presented Chief Madden with a Senate-Assembly Commendation for her achievements.



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MR. CHRISTOPHER CHINN, representing US Congressman Jeff Van Drew, presented Chief Madden with a Congressional Proclamation and offered congratulations.

United States House of Representatives



Proclamation

Congressman Dr. Jefferson Van Drew

CONGRESSIONAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Congressman Jefferson Van Drew, as the duly elected representative of New Jersey's Second Congressional District is pleased to honor and commend

Katherine Madden

In Recognition of
Being Appointed as the First Female Police Chief in the
History of North Wildwood Police Department

WHEREAS, the strength and success of the State of New Jersey and the United States of America rest upon the abilities and talents of our dedicated citizens that show exceptional efforts to promote and improve our community; and,

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the Second Congressional District, through their elected representative, recognize Katherine Madden as an inspiration to all and whose energy and achievements help us glimpse a future of hope and promise; and,

WHEREAS, Katherine Madden has brought honor and pride to the community and to the citizens of this state, New Jersey, and the United States of America; therefore,

Be it known to all that the undersigned hereby honor:

Katherine Madden

Recorded This Day
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

And extends best wishes for continued happiness and success in the future




Congressman Jefferson Van Drew

ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL congratulated Chief Madden on her appointment.

PUBLIC: None

The BENEDICTION was offered by Father Cadmus Mazarella of Wildwood Catholic Academy.

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ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Tolomeo, seconded by Rullo, that there being no further business before Council, we do now adjourn. Carried. 12:37 PM

APPROVED:

Patrick T. Rosenello, Mayor

ATTEST:

W. Scott Jett, City Clerk

This is a generalization of the meeting of May 1, 2024 and not a verbatim transcript.