

# Burlington County Times

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## Four honored for role in capture of bank robbery suspect

RIVERTON - A borough police officer and three civilians have been recognized for their roles in the capture of an armed robbery suspect.

Patrolman John Shaw was presented with a Meritorious Service Award certificate and medal by Police Chief Gregory Willis during Wednesday's Borough Council meeting.

Civil Service Award certificates were presented to Julianne Rudd, Marina Lucic and Deirdre Saia, who are employees at the Beneficial Bank on Broad Street.

The recognitions stem from the capture of the armed suspect in July. According to Willis, the man robbed the same financial institution in May, using a handgun. The previous incident was still under investigation when he returned to hold up the bank again.

The second time, tellers Rudd and Lucic alerted authorities shortly after he entered the building and aroused suspicion. They both pressed silent alarm buttons seconds before the suspect brandished a gun, threatening them with harm if police were notified. Meanwhile, head teller Saia made an emergency phone call from a back room, despite the threat.

A seven-year veteran of the force, Shaw said the information the women provided was relayed to him and proved to be crucial to his efforts in quickly locating the suspect, identified as Kahliefia Bussie, 23, of Palmyra. The officer watched the man exit the bank and apprehended him after a foot chase and physical struggle.

According to Councilman William Brown, Shaw also recovered \$17,800 in stolen money.

Willis said the bank employees showed "bravery, and professionalism in the face of imminent danger," and that Shaw displayed "outstanding initiative and tenacity."

A former detective with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, Shaw publicly thanked the women for tipping him off about



**Patrolman John Shaw**

the suspect's whereabouts and providing information under duress. He said their "quick thinking" and "bravery" made all the difference.

"You guys did an exceptional job," he told them.

In addition to the awards, Brown presented a municipal proclamation honoring the officer and bank employees. Shaw, Rudd and Lucic accepted the recognitions with family and friends in attendance. Co-workers said Saia was unable to attend the presentation.

*By Kristen Coppock  
BCT staff writer*

**Chief Greg Willis** awarding commendations to Beneficial Bank teller Deirdra Saia (on left) and Julianne Rudd. Teller Marina Lucic was also commended but was not at the meeting.

