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State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
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ROBERT L. QUINN
COMMISSIONER

March 11, 2024

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 4:8, Gifts to the State, authorize the Department of Safety (DOS), Division of Emergency Services and Communications (DESC), to accept the donation of a comfort dog valued at approximately \$7,000.00 from Hero Pups, LLC., of Stratham, NH. Effective upon Governor and Council approval.

EXPLANATION

The Division of Emergency Services and Communications has been offered the opportunity to acquire a comfort dog from Hero Pups, LLC., to help frontline first responders working in our E911 Emergency Communications Centers cope with job-related stress. One of our employees at DESC took on the task of researching the feasibility of having a comfort dog for the department. When conducting the research, the employee spoke with several public safety partners throughout New Hampshire who already have comfort dogs in their departments; many of which received their donated comfort dog from Hero Pups, LLC., including Franklin Police, Manchester Police, Salem Police, Claremont Police, and Concord Police.

Given the work our telecommunicators do in public safety, the job-related stress, and the emotional trauma that comes from being on the job, both Hero Pups and DESC feel this will be a great partnership. This generous donation will help improve the mental health of our entire Division. Additionally, the donated comfort dog will be an added resource that can be used to assist other emergency telecommunicators and dispatchers around the State of New Hampshire when the DOS Peer Support Team is called upon to assist with a critical incident stress debriefing (CISD).

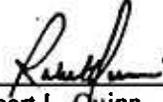
As part of the donation, for the first year, while the dog is in their car undergoing training, all veterinary services, training, and provided care for the dog are covered by Hero Pups, LLC. There is no cost to the State or our taxpayers for "dog handler" training, this will be provided for free. Abigail Rider, one of our E911 Telecommunications Supervisors, will serve as the comfort dogs' handler. Upon the canine's retirement, it will be relinquished to live out its years as Abigail's family pet.

After the transfer of ownership to the DESC, costs related to the care of the dog will come from the Division's budget using the Enhanced 911 Surcharge Funds. Funds are available in SFY2025 and contingent upon the availability and continued appropriations, there will be no impact from the States' General Funds for the comfort dog program through the DESC.

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If this donation request is approved by the Governor and Executive Council, ownership of the dog will be transferred to the DOS DESC around November or December 2024, assuming all dog and handler training is successful.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner of Safety

Hero Pups

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HeroPupsInc@yahoo.com
Tax ID # 81-2599629



February 6, 2024

To whom it may concern:

Hero Pups is seeking to donate a comfort dog to the Division of Emergency Services and Communications. We will provide all training, veterinary services and provide care for the dog while it is in training with us. Handler training will also be provided at no cost to the state. We hope that this dog will be an asset to the Division by reducing job-related stress for staff doing such important work.

We look forward to contributing in this way pending your approval.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Barker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Barker, Founder/Board President