

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

Dear Alder President Walker-Myers,

In accordance with the Order of the Board of Alders authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept all grants on behalf of the City of New Haven, passed October 17, 1994, I am writing to respectfully request that the Honorable Board approve submission of an application by the City of New Haven's Department of Police Service (NHPD) to the National Police Dog Foundation (NPDF) for a grant to purchase a heat alarm for a K9 vehicle. The K9 Unit has a general fund budget allocation that supports its basic needs, but it is stretched due to inflation and fluctuates from year to year depending on the health of the K9s. Funds are currently unavailable for a heat alarm. The NPDF is offering fifteen (15) heat alarm grants to departments around the country in need of them.

The NHPD's K9 Unit consists of seven dual purpose dogs to assist with patrol and drug detection, and two bomb dogs to assist officers with detection of explosives. K9s are an essential component of our law enforcement team. The heat alarm would be installed in the vehicle of K9 handler Sgt. Francisco Sanchez for Farley. Farley was purchased with funds from a fundraiser organized by a mother in memory of her son, who died of a drug overdose.

Heat exhaustion is a major cause of death for active K9s. A heat alarm provides safety and security for a K9 by automatically activating the vehicle's siren and light bar, thus notifying the handler, and rolling down the back windows. They also come with dual sensors to average the heat in the vehicle, hot and cold alerts, and can be coupled with automatic door openers for a quick release of the K9.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Renee Dominguez
Interim Chief of Police