

May 18, 2023

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 Aldermen authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept all grants on behalf of the City of New Haven, passed October 17, 1994, I am respectfully writing to advise the Honorable Board that the Department of Police Service would like to accept a donation from Puppies Behind Bars for a trained comfort/service dog and from For Cameron to pay for food, supplies, veterinary bills, and also to provide needed items for the life of the dog.

Puppies Behind Bars in New York City breeds and trains Labrador retrievers to become comfort/service dogs. We would like one for the Department to support our officer/employee wellness efforts, during police events, and for community outreach, including CIT calls, mental health calls, debriefs, schools, Yale Child Study cases, trauma canvasses, etc. For Cameron is a Connecticut non-profit that focuses on law reform, education, and public health efforts involving fentanyl and to reduce the stigma of addiction. For Cameron currently works with the Department and the New Haven Harm Reduction Task Force and has been very supportive of the work of our first responders.

The Department welcomes a comfort/service dog to mitigate the stresses of police work. Service animals have been used to respond to critical incidents in many facets of life—something first responders see every day. According to the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, "The wellness and safety of law enforcement officers is critical not only to themselves, their colleagues, and their agencies but also to public safety. An officer whose capabilities, judgment, and behavior are adversely affected by poor physical or psychological health not only may be of little use to the community he or she serves but also may be a danger to the community and to other officers." The addition of a comfort/service dog to our team--a visual, emotional, and physical mascot—exemplifies our mission to practice and support self-care.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please contact me at (203) 946-6333 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Karl Jacobson
Chief of Police