



Candace B. Hollingsworth
Mayor

Tracey Nicholson
City Administrator

PRESS RELEASE
City of Hyattsville Police Department
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Contact: Ms. Adrienne Augustus
Media Relations/Mental Health Programs Manager
City of Hyattsville Police Department
202.740.4198
aaugustus@hyattsville.org

Hyattsville City Police Department Welcomes Facility Dog to CAT Team
K9 Nola joins HCPD's new community policing/crisis response efforts

(Hyattsville, MD) –Today the City of Hyattsville Police Department welcomes its newest member, Nola the Fifth, a Canine Companions for Independence® facility dog. Nola is working on the Community Action Team (CAT) alongside her handler, Hyattsville City Police Department Acting Corporal Chris Evans. The pair will respond to emergency calls and engage children and adults affected by trauma. A press conference introducing Nola to the community is scheduled for Oct. 8 at 2:30 p.m., Robert King Memorial Park, 4200 Gallatin St., Hyattsville, MD. The press conference will include a swearing in ceremony with remarks from Hyattsville City Mayor Candace Hollingsworth and Hyattsville City Police Chief Amal Awad.

“In 2018, we began exploring innovative ways to incorporate fresh policing methods that would further support our ability to respond to crisis situations,” said Hyattsville City Police Chief Amal Awad. “When Cpl. Evans presented me with the idea of adopting a facility dog from Canine Companions for Independence, it was clear it would be a win for the Department and for the community.”

The two-year-old Labrador-Golden Retriever mix is a highly trained facility dog valued at approximately \$50,000, however, she is provided by Canine Companions at no cost to the City. Nola is not a therapy or emotional support pet. She is trained to engage people in crisis situations who may be experiencing a trauma or are exhibiting symptoms of a mental illness. Canine Companions matched Nola with A/Cpl. Evans after he underwent an extensive application process including a background check for home safety, interviews and an intensive, two-week training program conducted in Long Island, NY. The press



conference will conclude with A/Cpl. Evans and Nola will demonstrate Nola's abilities with members of the community. Prior to arriving in Hyattsville, Nola was trained for two years and understands over 40 commands.

"Nola was selected to work in law enforcement because of her unobtrusive and calm demeanor, which is necessary in a criminal justice setting," said A/Cpl. Chris Evans. "Nola was raised to be a loving dog that you can pet and love on when you see her in public, but she is not only an ambassador for the department and the City, she is also here to help people. You can have the worst day and for that moment, your thought process will shift to focus on the love and affection Nola gives," said Evans.

Nola is the second Canine Companions for Independence® facility dog to work with law enforcement in Maryland and the fourth in the northeast. Follow Nola on Instagram @K9Nola_HCPD. For additional information, contact Adrienne Augustus, Media Relations/Mental Health Programs Manager at 202-740-4198 or aaugustus@hyattsville.org.

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