

RESOLUTION 2024:66

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT TO INITIATE A K9 PROGRAM ON BEHALF OF THE BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS

WHEREAS, the Haddon Heights Police Department has identified the need to implement a K9 Program, in the interest of increasing public safety within the community; and

WHEREAS, the Haddon Heights Police Department will use funds currently available from asset forfeitures, donations, and grants to start the commencement of the K9 program; and

WHEREAS, funds from asset forfeitures, donations, and grants will also be used to maintain and expand the K9 program whenever feasible; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Haddon Heights Police Department, to select a K9 handler as a canine partner, who will be effective with community policing and its associated law enforcement functions; and.

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that the use of a K-9 along with law enforcement provides a community many benefits including the following:

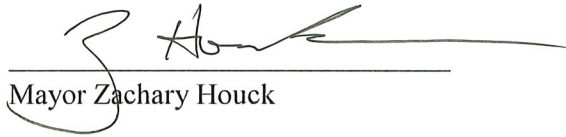
1. A K9s keen sense of smell helps them to detect items that a human officer might miss, especially drugs and bombs. With training, K9s can even sniff out drugs that are sealed in plastic. K9s can also be used to search for flammables and explosives. And a positive indication from a K9 is legal grounds to establish probable cause for a search.
2. K9s are frequently used to track missing people in search-and-rescue missions. Once a dog is given a piece of an item with the scent of a specific person, they can lead the police down the path that person took. This is also useful when tracking down suspects or escaped convicts. K9s can quickly lead teams down the right way. During a pursuit or search and rescue mission, every minute counts, so having this extra knowledge is invaluable.
3. It's quite common for K9s to make an appearance at local community events. These well-trained and adorable employees help to bond community members with their local police officers. Kids and families may be more likely to approach and engage with a police officer that has a friendly dog nearby.
4. K9s are often brought to special events such as holiday celebrations, parades, and music festivals. This is mostly for the public's safety, so explosives aren't left in the crowd. Additionally, it can be easy to chase suspects within a crowd, and a K9 can easily zoom in and out of people's legs to apprehend anyone suspicious.

5. K-9s can be incredibly beneficial when detaining an individual or protecting an officer. However, this is usually a very small portion of a K9s overall role.

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council have received a thorough presentation from Chief Schneider and Captain Kinkler, who made a compelling case of the need for a K9 Program within Haddon Heights to supplement both community policing and law enforcement activities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Haddon Heights in the County of Camden and State of New Jersey hereby approve and authorize the Haddon Heights Police Department to implement a K9 Program in accordance with the terms and conditions proposed.

Date: February 6, 2024



Mayor Zachary Houck

ATTEST: 

Kelly Santosusso, RMC, Borough Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Kelly Santosusso, Borough Clerk for the Borough of Haddon Heights do hereby certify the foregoing Resolution to be a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted at a public meeting of the Governing Body held on February 6, 2024.

Kelly Santosusso, RMC, Borough Clerk