

Community Resource Dog

The Newton Police Department is seeking community input to assist us in naming our new six-week old Golden Retriever - Community Resource Dog. His name for now is “Green,” which is based on the color of his collar used to differentiate him from his sisters and brothers! If you would like to participate in the naming, please send your suggestion via email to: puppy@newtonma.gov

The philosophy of Community-Policing promotes strategies for organizational transformation, supports creating lasting partnerships through community engagement, and embraces problem-solving techniques to proactively identify and resolve underlying root causes of public safety concerns, crime, and fear of crime.

The Newton Police Department is committed to achieving the tenets of community policing through the best practices of 21st Century Policing. As such, we seek to generate positive opportunities to engage all members of the public through our community outreach efforts.

As part of our community engagement objectives, the Newton Police Department, in partnership with the City of Newton welcomes our newest community policing program known as the Community Resource Dog (CRD) Program AND our newest member of the Newton Police Department, Officer Green!

The community resource dog (Green) and his handler (Officer Justin Lau – of the Community Services Bureau) will be tasked with implementing our innovative community engagement efforts by providing comfort and resources to individuals who have experienced unfortunate and/or traumatic circumstances or events.

The primary purpose of a Community Resource Dog includes facilitating positive interactions and communication between the police and members of the community; assists in reducing tension and anxiety during delicate or sensitive situations and provide solace to those in crisis. The Community Resource dog may be used as a calming mechanism among the most vulnerable and provide assistance with social - emotional learning aspects with children. Internally, the community resource dog also assists and supports officer health & wellness within the department.

“Green” is a Golden Retriever puppy, acquired from Golden Opportunities for Independence (GOFIDOG). GOFI is a not for profit organization that breeds, raises and trains service dogs and community resource dogs for several police departments in the Greater Boston area. These dogs are trained to offer a thoughtful and compassionate way of community policing, as well as a hybrid search and rescue component to assist in locating missing persons especially amongst the prone to wander population.

Over the next 18 months, Green and Officer Lau, will be training consistently to attain high standards of excellence as set forth by industry leaders, including American Kennel Club, Assistance Dog International, as well as search and rescue certification for canines. Some of the training Green and the Officer Lau attending includes the Puppy Aptitude Test, Puppy STAR for Dog and Handler, Canine Good Citizen, and Public Access Testing.

The Newton Police Department is excited about this new program and we welcome our new four legged friend to the City of Newton! Newton PD will now join Brookline, Wellesley, Dedham, Walpole, Chelsea, Franklin, Wrentham, Norfolk, and Babson College Police Departments with a Community Resource Dog program.