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**Concord Police Department Looks to Add Comfort Dog  
to Community Services Division**

CONCORD, NH – If all goes according to plan, Liberty, a yellow Labrador retriever, will be joining the Concord Police Department’s Community Services Division next spring as a comfort dog.

Comfort dogs, unlike typical police K9s used to locate drugs or track suspects, are used by police departments to increase community engagement, ease trauma for victims in the field or at the police station, and maintain department morale for officers and their families who may be facing difficulties. In addition, they make visits to places like schools, nursing homes and hospitals; attend community events; and can be called upon whenever there is a need.

While Liberty will likely be the first comfort dog to be part of a law enforcement agency here in New Hampshire, this model has successfully been used by many other police departments across the country. The Concord Police Department intends to model their program after the highly successful Hawthorne (CA) Police Department’s program.

Liberty was rescued in Pennsylvania this past August by Hero Pups of Exeter, NH; an organization that has extensive experience rescuing, training and placing dogs with veterans and first responders. Liberty’s training is being funded through a donation, with no expense to the Department or City. Upon successful completion of her extensive training, Liberty will join the Department in the spring.

The Department will provide updates as they become available.