



## **Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information**

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### **Central Falls Police Announce Reestablishment of K-9 Program**

Central Falls, RI – The Central Falls Police Department announced today that after generous donations, numerous volunteers, and months of training, the department will once again have a full-time K-9 Unit in Central Falls.

“This agency is steadfast in our commitment to its residents as we continuously challenge the way we do business by developing new and improved methods to serve the community,” said Colonel Mendonca. “This ambitious initiative is just another means to further enhance our agencies commitment by aiding in our mission to safeguard the general welfare and enrich the quality of life of the residents of Central Falls.”

Despite numerous attempts over the past several years to implement the K-9 program, a combination of timing and financial constraints made it difficult to come to fruition. Word of a trained canine looking for a new home reached administrators of the Central Falls police department and they took advantage of the opportunity.

Colonel James J. Mendonca, Mayor James Diossa and Officer Joseph DeCristoforo, the K-9 handler, were in attendance today when “Axel”, a Belgium Malinois, was officially sworn in as a Central Falls Police Officer at the Central Falls City Hall-Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m. The swearing-in exercise was followed by a brief meet and greet with students at Calcutt Middle School for students to learn about Axel’s new role as a member of the Central Falls police department.

“The City of Central Falls will be safer because of the reestablishment of our K-9 Unit,” said Mayor Diossa. “Axel’s unique set of skills will make him an asset to keeping our streets, residents, and his fellow police officers safer every night.”

In addition to working patrol, the K-9 Unit will be deployed for specific incidents where having a canine is advantageous, such as crowd control, building and vehicle searches, fleeing suspects, barricaded subjects, and missing persons.

As for community relations, the canine will be available in the future at the local manors and schools to not only display the tools being utilized to combat crime, but also show the measures that are being taken to keep the residents of Central Falls safe.

The reestablishment of the K-9 Program would not have been possible without the generosity of Dexter Credit Union and Navigant Credit Union, who both donated \$2,500.00 to assist with the startup costs. The Wyatt Detention Facility also donated \$500.00.

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