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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bayonne Police Department Announces Launch of Therapy Canine Program

Bayonne, NJ — Mayor James Davis and Chief of Police Robert Geisler are proud to announce the official launch of the Bayonne Police Department's new *Therapy Canine Program*, designed to strengthen community relations and provide emotional support to members of the public, first responders, and department personnel.

The department's first therapy canine, Seamus, will be assigned to Officer Dwyer, who will serve as his handler. Officer Dwyer, the first female K-9 handler in the department's history, personally owns Seamus and has ensured he is specially trained to provide affection, comfort, and support to individuals dealing with trauma, mental health challenges, or the aftermath of crime.

The Therapy Canine Program was created to enhance the department's ability to respond compassionately to those affected by distressing situations. It is the policy of the Bayonne Police Department to use therapy canines as a resource for outreach, engagement, and healing. Whether comforting a victim of a crime, supporting a fellow officer, or engaging with residents at a public event, therapy canines will play an essential role in building trust and wellness within the community.

You can expect to see Seamus at various public events such as street fairs, concerts, parks, and school visits, as well as during outreach efforts at local senior citizen residences. This program reflects the department's continued commitment to innovative approaches in community policing and mental health awareness.