



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: April 11, 2022
Submitted by: Chief Brian Levesque
Department: Police
Speakers: Chief Brian Levesque

Date of Meeting: 4/28/2022
Time Required: 10 minutes
Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Acceptance of an anonymous donation of \$10,200 for a Comfort Dog Program

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

Request to accept a donation of \$10,200 from an anonymous donor for the estimated first year cost of a comfort dog.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	31:95-b	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	8-15	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:		N/A	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Brian Levesque</u>	Address:	<u>Police</u>
Phone Number:	<u>603.420.1854</u>	Email Address:	<u>blevesque@merrimacknh.gov</u>

APPROVAL

Town Manager: Yes No: Chair/Vice Chair: Yes No:

Hold for Meeting Date: _____



MERRIMACK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEMO

DATE: APRIL 11, 2022
TO: MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
CC: PAUL MICALI, TOWN MANAGER
FROM: BRIAN LEVESQUE, POLICE CHIEF
RE: AGENDA REQUEST

The agenda request before the Town Council is to accept a donation of \$10,200 from an anonymous donor to be utilized to start a comfort dog program at the Merrimack Police Department. Comfort dogs are used for many different roles at a police department. These roles include providing comfort for people during times of crisis, reducing anxiety during investigations to increase communications with officers, provide aid and comfort individuals and the community that is impacted by violence, tragedy or traumatic events. Patrol Officer Amanda Groves will be the comfort dog handler and will remain in the patrol division. She is also a member of our newly formed Critical Incident Stress Management team. The comfort dog will be with Officer Groves and respond to calls for service just as she does. The comfort dog can be utilized at other officers calls as well if they believe it could help. We will be attempting to obtain a dog from Boonefield Labradors, who provides a lab for free to police departments.

We are not able to provide a car specifically for the comfort dog so we were planning on outfitting one of our patrol cars with a 1/3 prisoner 2/3 K9 rear cage. This allows us to transport the comfort dog, but also still utilize it for prisoner transports. It further allows us to utilize the car on different shifts when Officer Groves and the dog are not working. The cost of this cage is our largest expense. It is also equipped with a cooling and paging system to alert for temperature spikes. The total cost with install is \$7,300.

Additional costs would include:

6 week Basic Obedience Training - \$300

6 week Intermediate Course - \$300

AKC Canine Good Citizen Course – \$300

Misc Expenses (Vet, equipment, etc.) - \$2,000 Est. yearly cost (obtained from Goffstown PD)

Total first year startup cost - **\$10,200**

We are hopeful that we would be able to obtain community donations to support the program in the future. If you have any questions, please let me know.

LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Merrimack
Public Hearing

Residents of Merrimack are hereby advised that the Town Council will hold a public hearing to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of an anonymous donation in the amount of \$10,200 to be used towards starting a comfort dog program at the Police Department, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15. The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM** in the Matthew Thornton Room located at 8 Baboosic Lake Road in Merrimack.

For Town of Merrimack Use:

Posted: April 20, 2022

To Be Published: April 20, 2022 (*Union Leader*)

To Be Published: April 22, 2022 (*Sunday Select / Merrimack Edition*)