



Media Contact: Shannon Wiggins, Communications Director
470.532.0957 (cell) or swiggins@chambleega.gov

— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Chamblee Police Department Launches K-9 Program

June 22, 2023 — The Chamblee Police Department is adding a new officer to its department, but this officer is on four legs. At the June 20th City Council Meeting, City leaders approved for the Police Department to launch a K-9 Program. Since 2022, the department has requested or utilized K-9 units 70 times to assist in investigations. By establishing this new program, the goal is to utilize their own K-9 unit to aid in field operations, evidence, locating criminals, drugs, missing persons, and for community outreach.

“This K-9 program not only provides more safety and efficiency to our department, but will be utilized as a great outreach resource to interact socially in a positive manner with our school-aged children,” said Chief Gary Yandura, Chamblee Interim Police Chief.

The program will be initiated under Officer David Luna-Rodriguez who has been with the department since March and has been training canines since 2008. Officer Luna-Rodriguez was also instrumental in training and donating a canine to the Lithonia Police Department after losing their own. He owns and trains two-year old Robin, a Belgian Malinois from Holland, and has been certified by the South Georgia K-9 Academy. Robin is certified by the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA) and is also certified in narcotics, articles searches, tracking, and apprehension. Officer Luna-Rodriguez says he is fully equipped to start this program.

“I am overwhelmed with gratitude as I begin my journey in the K-9 program,” said Officer David Luna-Rodriguez. “I am thankful for the trainers, mentors, and fellow handlers who have paved the way for me and shared their knowledge and expertise. K-9 Robin and I are incredibly grateful for everyone's support. We are excited to be a part of such a great community as we continue to bridge the gap between law enforcement and our communities. We look forward to seeing what the future holds with the Chamblee Police Department.”

Photo: Officer David Luna-Rodriguez with K-9 Robin

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Located just 14 miles from downtown Atlanta, Chamblee is a vibrant urban city with a diverse community and international flair. The City of Chamblee began as a small rail town and was incorporated in 1908. It has grown to more than seven square miles and nearly 30,000 residents. Chamblee is home to a heavy rail MARTA station, a historic downtown and Antique Row, the vibrant Buford Highway Corridor, DeKalb-Peachtree Airport (PDK), the

Centers for Disease Control and a thriving business community with a unique sense of entrepreneurship and optimism. Visit www.chambleega.gov for more information.