



WILLIAM M. HEIM
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Dear Citizen,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the "Friends of the Reading Canine Unit." This dedicated group of citizens has come together for the purpose of raising funds to re-establish the police canine units in the City of Reading. Canine units are a very valuable tool for police, and we expect that these dogs and their handlers will provide a very visible presence in Reading and be a deterrent to crime. They also help keep both citizens and officers safe, as one canine unit can sometimes diffuse a situation simply by its presence. We plan to train some of the canines to detect drugs. With their keen sense of smell, they can find stashes of drugs in houses, in alleyways, or secreted in vehicles or other hiding places.

The President of this organization is Paulette Williams, a long time city resident who cares about the community and has volunteered her time and energy for this project. She is assisted by Keith Claytor, the Vice-President, whose father was the very first canine officer in the Reading Police Department. I am also a part of this team as is Sergeant Guy Lehman, an experienced dog handler. I am grateful for their initiative and look forward to the day when these trained canine teams are patrolling the streets of Reading once again.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope that you will consider supporting this worthwhile effort. Together, we can make Reading a safer place to live, work, and visit.

Sincerely,

William M. Heim
Chief of Police

