

CANINE UNIT HANDLER

A. SUMMARY

An applicant for the position of Canine Unit Handler assigned to the Patrol Division should have a minimum of 4 years as a Police Officer with a high degree of achievement and success with in the Police Department. The canine handler position involves the use of a trained police dog that will be used to support police operations.

B. QUALIFICATIONS: SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

- Minimum of 4 years of experience as a Brookline Police Officer
- Interest in working with a trained comfort dog
- Minimum of a 5-year commitment to the Canine Unit.
- Officer must have a proper area and home for the dog to live.
- The Officer must be willing to take a dog into the home and give up any other dogs as determined by the Chief of Police.
- The Officer will be willing to accept responsibility that the dog is kept healthy, safe and well cared for.
- The Officer must understand they are subject to a call-out at any time (24/7).
- The Officer will be willing to accept responsibility for maintenance of any and all special equipment issued to them and the Canine.
- The Officer must understand that they will attend and keep track of all Canine training and most importantly have the responsibility of keeping the dog at an acceptable level of readiness.

C. ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- Recommendation from current/former supervisor(s)
- Prior history of positive job performance and work history
- Proven abilities to perform work required in the specialist position
- Education
- Training (general)
- Self-initiated training
- Commendations / letters of commendation
- Complaint history (external citizen complaints / internal complaints)
- Sick time review (no misuse of or chronic sick time use documented by the Department)
- Strong work attendance records
- Self-motivated / strong work ethic
- Positive attitude and pro-active approach to work
- Focused and attentiveness to detail
- Excellent organizational skills
- Ability to devote extra time for training
- Possess excellent problem solving, time management, written and verbal communication skills

- Be highly motivated, able to work independently with minimal supervisory intervention. Should also have a demonstrated track record of maintaining a high level of confidentiality, discipline, trust, and professionalism.
- Possess a demonstrated competence in report writing and courtroom testimony.
- Ability to work independently and in team environments
- Sound communication skills
- Prior assignment to and/or volunteering for Department specialty units