



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 19, 2022**

Contact: Brian Johnson, Community Relations Manager  
Email: [btjohnson@cityofhanfordca.com](mailto:btjohnson@cityofhanfordca.com)  
Phone Number: (559) 302-6233

## **HANFORD POLICE WELCOME TWO FACILITY DOGS TO DEPARTMENT**

*Penny and BeBe will bring comfort to department employees, community*

**HANFORD, CA** – The Hanford Police Department has a new tool to help its employees cope with challenging and emotional situations, including the aftermath of a major incident.

BeBe, a three-month-old Labradoodle and Penny, a five-month-old Goldendoodle, recently began their special training to become facility dogs. They are being trained by Macarena Etcheberry, director of local nonprofit Hands and Paws Prevail, INC. (HAPPI).

“They’re very, very smart dogs,” Etcheberry said about the breeds. “They’re very amiable and they want to please. They are also minimal to non-shedding dogs.”

Hanford Police Dispatch Supervisor Liliana McFarland and Office Assistant Michel Ornelas volunteered to be the dog’s owners and handlers. Liliana says BeBe is at the police department for the entire duration of her 12-hour shifts.

“I already have seen a difference,” Liliana said. “Everyone comes into dispatch and they say, ‘Where’s BeBe?’ I’m like, ‘What about me?’ It does brighten up their day.”

“To say that modern day policing is a stressful line of work is an understatement,” said Hanford Police Chief Parker Sever. “The addition of BeBe and Penny is a huge benefit for the morale and mental health of our sworn and non-sworn employees, and we can’t wait to introduce them to Hanford residents.”

BeBe and Penny will train with HAPPI once a week for approximately two years. Eventually, they will attend community events, such as Hanford’s Thursday Night Market Place.

Generous contributions from FAST Credit Union and Hanford resident Billie Blackwell paid for the purchase and training of both dogs.

###