CUA ECC Welcomes K9s For Warriors Station Dog Selso

Therapy dog Selso will provide emotional support to telecommunications staff who serve Charlottesville, UVA, and Albemarle County



Charlottesville, VA – November 6, 2026 – The newest addition to the Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle County Emergency Communications Center has four legs and a tail. CUA ECC worked with K9s For Warriors to recruit Station Dog Selso, a 2-year-old labrador mix, as a therapy dog for 911 call-takers and dispatchers.

K9s For Warriors, the nation's leading provider of trained Service Dogs to Veterans with PTSD, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma, also partners with law enforcement and first responder agencies to provide high-quality therapy dogs at no financial cost. These dogs provide emotional support to police officers, firefighters, dispatchers, victims, and others exposed to trauma in the line of duty every day.

Selso was rescued from El Paso Animal Services in El Paso, Texas and entered the K9s For Warriors Station Dog program in April 2026. During training, Selso visited emergency communications centers, hospitals, fire rescue stations, and law enforcement agencies, where he excelled in every environment and quickly demonstrated a natural ability to connect with people with his friendly, calm demeanor.



"The cost of serving as a first responder goes far beyond what the public sees," said Greg Wells, Army Veteran, former law enforcement officer and K9s For Warriors Director of the Station Dog Program. "Station Dogs like Selso are trained to provide a steady, calming presence for first responders who are exposed to crisis and trauma every day. Our goal is to support the mental and emotional well-being of those who continue to show up for their communities, and we're confident Selso will bring comfort, connection and moments of relief to the CUA ECC team."

Since joining the Emergency Communications Center, Selso has quickly become an essential presence on the dispatch floor. His calm demeanor provides critical relief during demanding shifts, particularly in the wake of high-stress 911 calls. Selso is trained with multiple therapeutic skills, including deep pressure therapy. He intuitively rests his weight on a staff member's lap whenever he senses tension or fatigue. The impact on team morale has been immediate and profound.

"Our 911 dispatchers are the invisible first responders—they are the calm voices guiding our community through their worst moments, and that work can take a mental toll," said Lily Gregg, Executive Director of the ECC. "Bringing in Selso is a direct investment in our people with a focus on their resilience and wellness. When we care for the well-being of our dispatchers, they are better equipped to remain focused, sharp, and compassionate in their service to the community."

Every day in the United States, roughly 20 Veterans take their own lives and more than 1,000 dogs are euthanized. K9s For Warriors is working every day to end Veteran suicide by providing life-changing Service Dogs. As a part of its mission, K9s For Warriors also provides Station Dogs to first responders and law enforcement across the country through an American Kennel Club recognized Therapy Dog program.

It is important to note that Station Dogs are not diverted from any Warriors in the K9s For Warriors Service Dog program. Station Dogs are not Service Dogs and do not have rights or legal protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To learn more about K9s For Warriors, visit k9sforwarriors.org.

About K9s For Warriors:

Determined to end Veteran suicide, K9s For Warriors is the leading nonprofit organization that provides trained Service Dogs to military Veterans nationwide suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma — at no financial cost to the Veteran. Backed by groundbreaking scientific research from the University of Arizona's OHAIRE Lab, the program demonstrates how Service Dogs can help mitigate symptoms of PTSD while simultaneously restoring confidence and independence. Founded in 2011 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, K9s For Warriors is committed to saving lives at both ends of the leash by primarily rescuing dogs and pairing them with Veterans in need. The organization is also dedicated to raising awareness about Veterans' mental health and driving policy-level reform. To date, K9s has paired more than 1,350 Veterans with life-changing Service Dogs and rescued more than 2,500 dogs.

Find more information at www.k9sforwarriors.org | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn

About the Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle Emergency Communications Center (ECC):

Established in 1984, the Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is a regionally consolidated public safety answering point (PSAP) serving Albemarle County, the City of Charlottesville, and the University of Virginia. The ECC handles all 9-1-1 emergency and non-emergency calls for the region and serves as the central dispatch for local police departments, fire services, and rescue squads. A nationally recognized center, the ECC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) and is designated as an APCO National Certified Training Program.