



FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FLPD CELEBRATES ONE YEAR WITH THERAPY DOG, SEPOT

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department (FLPD) is celebrating one year with our newest therapy dog, Sepot. March marked Sepot's first anniversary with FLPD and in that time he and his partner, Officer Jessica Scala, have been very busy.

Sepot is a year and a half old, yellow labrador retriever, who was donated to our department from First Responders Pack Foundation, a nonprofit organization providing therapy dogs to first responder agencies. Sepot attended the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Paws and Stripes College where he was trained as a therapy dog. He is named after one of FLPD's fallen officers, Jennifer Sepot, who died in the line of duty on August 14, 2021.



In his first year, Sepot has had more than 200 visits providing comfort, emotional support, and positive interactions with the Fort Lauderdale community as well as surrounding areas. This includes visits to schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities, workplaces, and daycares. He's also attended many city events and has provided important emotional support during depositions and victim interviews. He is often called upon to help mitigate post-traumatic stress experienced by law enforcement officers throughout Broward County.

Sepot has earned the American Kennel Club (AKC) Titles of Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dog Novice, Therapy Dog, Therapy Dog Advanced and Therapy Dog Excellent. He is also a member of the Broward First Responders Support Dogs providing comfort, companionship, and care for first responders in Broward County.

Officer Jessica Scala says some of her favorite moments with Sepot are when a student at a school overcomes his/her fear of dogs when they're with Sepot. She also mentioned something she enjoys hearing from those who've just visited with Sepot, "that was the best part of my day."

When Sepot is not working, he loves the zoomies, playing fetch with his tennis ball, chewing bones, playing with his toys, belly rubs and snuggling with his big fur brother Winston. Sepot loves treats and his favorite is ice.

Thank you, Sepot, for your dedicated service to our department and our community over the last year.

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OR# N/A

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