



## Office of the Mayor

One JFK Memorial Drive  
Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Charles C. Kokoros  
Mayor

781-794-8100

July 9, 2021

Senator Walter F. Timilty, Chair  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 213-B  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Carlos González, Chair  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 167  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security  
Bill S. 1606/H. 2547 (Nero's Law)

Dear Senator Timilty, Representative González and members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security,

On behalf of the Town of Braintree and the men and women of the Braintree Police Department, we are writing today in support of the bill pending to allow for the care and transportation of police dogs injured in the line of duty, referred to as Nero's Law.

As you all know, on June 4, 2021, Braintree police officers responded to a call for a domestic dispute involving a firearm. Officers responding to the scene were informed that the subject had fled the apartment complex and traveled on foot into a thickly wooded area armed with multiple firearms. Several officers, including K9 Officer William Cushing and his K9 partner Kitt, Officer Matthew Donoghue and K9 Officer Richard Seibert entered the area in search of the subject. While closing in on the subject's location, the officers were ambushed and gunfire was exchanged. As the subject repeatedly fired his weapon in the direction of Officers Donoghue, Cushing and Seibert, K9 Kitt heroically advanced towards the subject and ultimately gave his life for that of his handler and his partners.

Dogs have been used by law enforcement agencies since the late 1800s and have become an essential part of police departments serving as a deterrent to criminal activity, assisting with the location of illegal drugs and explosives, tracking fugitives and finding missing persons.

K9 Officer Seibert has worked side by side with K9 Lucky for over ten (10) years. During that time, K9 Lucky has located and seized narcotics including cocaine, fentanyl and heroin. In the last twelve (12) months, K9 Lucky has located twenty (20) kilograms of cocaine, four (4) kilograms of fentanyl, two (2) kilograms of heroin and one hundred and fifty (150) pounds of marijuana. Additionally, K9 Lucky's service has resulted in the seizure of four hundred seventy-one thousand four hundred and sixty dollars (\$471,460.00) relating to drug activity.

K9 Kitt served as a distinguished member of the Braintree Police Department for over eleven (11) years. During that time, K9 Kitt located over one hundred (100) finds including lost children, missing senior citizens, some with Alzheimer's disease, suspects and individuals believed to want to harm themselves or had committed suicide. When securing a crime scene, K9 Kitt was also instrumental in locating evidence essential to investigations and prosecutions of criminal activity. In addition to his service in Braintree, K9 Kitt was a member of the Metro SWAT Team, where he had over one hundred (100) deployments ensuring the safety of his fellow SWAT officers.

The current, and arguably outdated, state of the law fails to account for the invaluable service and sacrifice made by police canines during each deployment by prohibiting the administration of medical care if injured in the line of duty. Police canines spend their careers valiantly serving and protecting their handlers, fellow officers and the public, and it is time that the Commonwealth afford them the same level of care and protection provided to their brothers and sisters in law enforcement.

Sincerely,



Mayor Charles C. Kokoros

Sincerely,



Police Chief Mark W. Dubois