

# Campus Safety<sup>®</sup>

ONLINE SUMMIT

## Comfort K9s On Campus

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Chief of Police and  
Executive Director of Public Safety





## Why comfort K9s?

The comfort K9's job is to comfort and provide animal therapy in time of great stress or anxiety.



# History

- Dates back to my time as Chief at the University of Maryland-Baltimore
- Greenfield, Mass.: K9s Donut and Clarence
- Brevard County (Florida) Sheriff's Office: Paws and Stripes College







# Paws and Stripes College

[pawsandstripescollege@bcso.us](mailto:pawsandstripescollege@bcso.us)





# History

- First Comfort K9 at UMB Police: Lexi
- Only the third comfort K9 in the country at the time in June 2019
- Overwhelming campus response to Lexi
- Second comfort K9: Archie



# Comfort K9 program at Illinois

- In addition to Archie, added Lollipop, Winston and Rosie
- Responsibilities are wide-ranging
  - Outreach events and meetings
  - Student stress
  - Mental health crisis calls
  - Critical incidents











## Calls for service

- Christmas Eve fire
- Armed subject in bus shelter
  - CIT call in student dorm
- Child Advocacy Center interviews
  - First responder deaths

# Demand keeps increasing

- Word is getting around very quickly
- Students/staff are now back on campus
- Help at outreach events, Boys and Girls Club, just walking around campus





# Takeaways

- Comfort K9s are becoming a popular and effective police resource
- Both research and anecdotal evidence supports their efficacy
- Starts a conversation
- Ultimately bridges the gap between law enforcement and the community



## Reminders

- Access to the Presentation
- Evaluations
- Certificate of Attendance
- Social Media



@CSEventTweets

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#CSOS21

## Contact Info

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