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MEDIA RELEASE
May 20, 2021

Sheriff to 'swear in' new therapy puppy for Littleton Public Schools

ARAPAHOE COUNTY – He's only ten weeks old, but little 'Rex' is ready to get to work! Sheriff Tyler Brown will swear in the ACSO's newest member, a black Labrador retriever puppy. Rex is our first therapy dog, and he'll be teamed up with School Resource Officer Deputy John Gray. The pair will be assigned to all the Littleton Elementary Schools within Arapahoe County. Deputy Gray and Rex will work with students with special needs, be a comfort to students in crisis or during times of stress and help those who suffer from anxiety or depression. **See photos attached.**

"Mental health is an ongoing concern, particularly with our youth. There is a chemical change in the brain that reduces the stress when people pet and interact with a dog," says Deputy John Gray. "We hope that Rex will help students feel comfortable and safe in school and bring a smile to their faces."

Over the next year, Rex will be training in basic obedience. When he turns one, he'll attend an A.K.C. (American Kennel Club) good citizen class and an intensive class to become an A.K.C. Certified Therapy Dog.

"We are so proud of this partnership we have with Littleton Public Schools to implement this new therapy dog program and make it a great success," says Sheriff Tyler Brown, "we look forward to this new and exciting way to work with the LPS School District."

Deputy Gray has been with the sheriff's office for 11 years and assigned to the SRO unit for six years. He's currently assigned to the elementary schools. He is also a member of the SWAT Negotiation Team and works with citizens in crisis. He enjoys teaching about school safety, internet safety, and mentoring students of all ages. He's looking forward to incorporating Rex into many new and exciting programs for LPS schools.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

May 25, 2021

8:30 a.m.

**Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office
13101 E. Broncos Pkwy, Centennial**

Interested media please arrive by 8:00 a.m.



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