

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Josh Faust
Public Relations & Communications Specialist
Frederick Health
240-566-4816
JFaust@Frederick.Health

Frederick Health Welcomes Duke the Dog from the State's Attorney's Office

Frederick, MD – December 8, 2022, Frederick Health, the largest healthcare provider in Frederick County, is teaming up with the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office (SAO) to host a visit for K9 Officer Duke, the newest asset crime-fighting asset in the County. Duke is an Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) K9; his handler is SAO Investigator Justin Walters. Duke is one of only 100 dogs nationwide and one of only two in Maryland trained explicitly as an ESD K9.

ESD K9s are trained to detect and alert their handler to the presence of a chemical compound found on all electronic circuit boards called triphenylphosphine oxide (TPPO). Examples of electronics with circuit boards include laptops, cell phones, and hard drives.

The ESD K9 team will focus on investigations of the Frederick County Cyber Crimes Task Force, which handles Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases within the County. K9 Duke and his handler will be a tremendous asset in ensuring that digital devices are successfully recovered during the execution of search warrants. SAO Investigator Walters commented, "It is such a rewarding feeling to know that K9 Duke and I will help make a difference in bringing justice to some of the most innocent and vulnerable victims."

Duke will be at the Frederick Health Hospital beginning at 3 PM on December 12. He will be visiting with pediatric patients, the Forensic Nursing team, and the IT department. The State's Attorney's Office often works closely with Frederick Health's Forensic nurses when processing sensitive cases.

"The Frederick Health Forensic Nursing team is proud to work collaboratively with the State's Attorney's Office and has done so for years. Our joint efforts help to protect this community," said Pam Holtzinger, the Forensic Nurse Supervisor at Frederick Health.

To learn more about Frederick Health, please visit www.frederickhealth.org.

About Frederick Health

Frederick Health provides comprehensive healthcare services to the residents of Frederick County. The system includes Frederick Health Hospital, Frederick Health Medical Group, Frederick Health Employer Solutions, Frederick Health Home Care, and Frederick Health Hospice. Frederick Health Medical Group is a multi-specialty practice with more than 100 providers, 18 specialties, and 24 locations across the County. The system has several ambulatory care locations, the freestanding James M Stockman Cancer Institute, three urgent care locations, and the Frederick Health Village.

With over 4,500 team members, Frederick Health provides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness services to support its mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community.

For more information or to join the Frederick Health team, visit www.frederickhealth.org/careers.

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