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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wheat Ridge Police Dog Walker Watch Training Gives Dog Owners Tools to Keep Neighborhoods Safe

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Oct. 1, 2019 -- The Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) will host its Dog Walker Watch training on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019, from 6-7 p.m. at the WRPD 7500 W. 29th Ave. in Wheat Ridge. This free class for Wheat Ridge residents is designed for dog walkers to help deter crime in their neighborhoods. To register for the program dogs must be licensed.

“Residents who walk their dogs every day are great resources to help the Wheat Ridge Police Department identify suspicious people and activity in our community,” said Wheat Ridge Police Chief Dave Pickett. “The Dog Walker Watch class provides pet owners with education on how to identify suspicious behavior and when it should be reported to police. Residents and their furry friends often walk the neighborhood multiple times a day. If something or someone is out of place, they will probably realize it sooner than a police officer on patrol. If your instincts are telling you something doesn’t look right it probably isn’t,” Pickett continued.

Dog guardians/owners who attend the Dog Walker Watch training (dogs should stay home) will be presented with a certificate signed by WRPD Chief Pickett. Those participating in training will also receive a special Honorary WRPD K-9 scarf for their four-legged companion to wear as they “patrol” the neighborhood on their daily walks.

According to the Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA, there are more than 75 million dog owners across the nation. Dozens, if not hundreds, of neighbors are walking their dog throughout the community at all times of the day, all days of the week, in all weather conditions. WRPD’s Dog Walker Watch program encourages these neighbors to assist local law enforcement as extra eyes and ears while out walking their dog. The program enhances the partnership between the police and the community while providing education so neighbors can be more aware and learn how to effectively observe and report suspicious activity.

Pet guardians/owners can register for the WRPD Dog Walker Watch training class at ci.wheatridge.co.us/WRPDDogWatch. Space is limited.

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