

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2021

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PNM and APD join together to provide hope and comfort to the Albuquerque community

(ALBUQUERQUE, NM) – The simple act of petting a dog can provide comfort and lower anxiety, according to [UCLAHealth.org](https://www.uclahealth.org). Today PNM, along with the City of Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Police Department (APD), held a press conference to announce a collaboration to bring a very special comfort dog to serve the community in Albuquerque. Mayor Keller, Chief Harold Medina and Sergeant Amanda Wild with the Albuquerque Police Department, and Pat Vincent-Collawn, PNM Resources chairman, president and CEO all spoke at the conference.

PNM is a proud sponsor of Graham, a two-and-a-half-year-old black Labrador Retriever, with the Albuquerque Police Department. Graham will serve the community as a comfort dog for APD, providing emotional support for victims of violent crimes and for the detectives and investigators who investigate those crimes. Graham was trained by [Assistance Dogs of the West](#) as a Crisis Response Canine, receiving over 1,500 hours of training to work with professionals in the judicial system and those handling mass casualty incidents providing expert resources for special victim services.

“We appreciate first responders and everything they do for our community,” said Pat Vincent-Collawn, PNM Resources chairman, president and CEO. “Sponsoring a comfort dog like Graham is one small way PNM can help the community while simultaneously providing relief and support to the men and women who serve the public.”

Graham teamed up with APD Sergeant Amanda Wild in late 2020. Amanda Wild has been the Sergeant over the APD Sex Crimes Unit for the last three years. It can be difficult for victims of such emotionally charged and deeply personal crimes to speak with officers and detectives they don't know. Graham brings a level of comfort that can help victims feel safe during extremely vulnerable times.

“We are excited to welcome Graham to the APD family,” Chief Harold Medina said. “Graham will play an important role in support of victims during extremely challenging and emotional investigations. Victims often speak with officers and detectives they've never met before, and during a crisis. With Graham's presence, he will make them feel as comfortable as possible during those vulnerable moments.”

Sgt. Wild and Graham have been working together since late 2020, working hard over at the Family Advocacy Center with the investigators who work for the center. Police officers are at risk for high blood pressure, insomnia and stress, along with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide. Graham will

not only help build relationships with APD out in the community, but also within the police department itself, helping officers diffuse the stress, anger and frustrations that sometimes comes with their jobs.

"The other side of the coin of fighting crime is supporting those who are impacted by it," said Mayor Tim Keller. "I'm grateful for this partnership that makes a comfort dog available to victims going through what may be their darkest days. We would never want anyone, especially a child, to feel alone during a traumatic time and a small comfort like this could be the difference."

About PNM

With headquarters in Albuquerque, PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico, serving 530,000 customers in dozens of communities across the state. PNM is a subsidiary of PNM Resources, an energy holding company also headquartered in Albuquerque. For more information, visit www.PNM.com.

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